THE TIMES

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Major 'would advise Blair on handling Europe'

By Peter Riddell

JOHN MAJOR has offered to give Tony Blair frank and private advice on how to handle negotiations in the European Union if Labour wins the general election.

In an hour-long interview with *The Times* in Downing Street, Mr Major nonetheless says he is confident of winning the election. A relaxed and good-humoured Prime Minister admitted he was "baffled" by the opinion polls showing a big Labour lead which "bear no relationship to what I feel going round the country". He said he was "having fun" during the campaign.

Dismissing protests about the Conservative Party advertisement showing a small Mr Blair on the knee of a giant Chancellor Helmut Kohl, he says: "Politics has become so pompous." He describes the "rough and tumble of politics" as part of its charm.

Mr Major discloses for the first time that Conservative MPs would probably be offered a free vote in opposition, as well as in government, on any decision to take Britain into a single currency. This move would please pro-European Tory MPs who would strongly resist any move to outright opposition from a new Eurosceptic leader of the party. It would also help a Labour government to construct a cross-party majority if it eventually decided to enter.

Full interview, page 9

He says: "If Tony Blair were Prime Minister and he asked my advice about how to handle European negotiations, he could have it in complete privacy and in complete frankness."

Mr Major reveals the extent of his disillusionment with the way the EU now works and with the behaviour of other European leaders and the Brussels Commission and says that they are pushing the national patience in more than one country to breaking point. He is "sick and tired" of the fact that whenever he tells the truth in Brussels, it is portrayed as "poor old Britain, isolated again, taking a different Eurosceptic line". He adds: "There is nothing Eurosceptic about pointing out that this institution is creaking ... it is pushing the national states too far and it will break up ... if it carries on as it is going."

Feuding ministers cloud Tory fightback

By Philip Webster, political editor

THE Prime Minister's attempts to launch a fightback in the ten days before polling were undermined yesterday by a public clash between Cabinet ministers over Europe that fuelled speculation about a post-election leadership contest.

As John Major tried to turn the spotlight from Europe to education, Kenneth Clarke directly contradicted Michael Howard's claim that the Amsterdam summit in June could threaten Britain's future as a nation state. The Chancellor also suggested that far from being more sceptical than Labour and the Liberal Democrats, Tory policy on a single currency was "identical to both of the other parties".

The clash between Mr Clarke and Mr Howard prompted Gordon Brown to declare that the leadership battle was out in the open and Tony Blair to speak of the "civil war" raging in the Tory party. Paddy Ashdown said that ministers were fighting like ferrets in a sack.

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a former deputy party chairman who has been working closely with Mr Major, issued a sharp warning to those anticipating a leadership contest. "Their duty is quite simply to get behind the Prime Minister in this next two weeks and if they don't the party will remember very clearly," he told BBC News.

At the same time, John Redwood issued a loyalty statement after weekend newspapers suggested that his leadership campaign was ready to roll. "I am only fighting one election — the general election," he said. "That is the election that matters and that is why I urge everyone to vote Conservative."

Mr Redwood, the beaten challenger in 1995, does, however, have several backers who would be ready for a swift leadership battle, and a Stop Redwood campaign is already emerging among supporters of several potential rivals, including Michael Portillo, Mr Howard and Mr Clarke.

Many senior MPs believe that Mr Major would want to go quickly if he were heavily defeated on May 1. But supporters of Cabinet contenders — who might also include Malcolm Rifkind, William Hague and Stephen Dorrell — intend to ask him to stay on as leader at least until July to give ministers time to organise their bids.

The leadership speculation intensified yesterday after Mr Howard told GMTV's *Sunday* programme: "The Amsterdam summit (is) so far-reaching that it would indeed put our survival as a nation state in question. That is the reality." But asked by the BBC's *On the Record* programme if he agreed, Mr Clarke said: "No. I don't think the

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MIKE WILKINSON

Old left, young left: Mick McGahey, former leader of the Scottish miners, embracing Rozanne Foyer, the Scottish TUC's youth spokeswoman, at the STUC's centenary congress in Glasgow yesterday. Page 12; leading article, page 23

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The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Mild at first, then severe frost — for 10,000 years

THE long-term weather forecast for Britain is freezing, but global warming will give us at least a thousand years of Mediterranean weather first (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Two British climatologists who have examined the great cycles of variation caused by changes in the Earth's orbit believe that we are only ten millennia or so away from a period of extreme cold, with a new Ice Age to follow.

Dr Clare Goodess and Dr Jean Palutikof of the University of East Anglia say that if global warming is discounted, today's temperate weather is likely to be succeeded in two thousand years or so by "boreal" conditions similar to those of north Norway and Sweden.

That would persist for almost 20,000 years, before the country became as cold as southwest Alaska or north Russia. In about 50,000 years, things would get still worse, with 10,000 years of glacial conditions comparable to Greenland today. That might make it impossible for big communities to survive in the North.

When global warming is considered, a different picture emerges. Mediterranean weather will set in for at least a thousand — and possibly 10,000 — years. But once all the fossil fuel in the Earth's crust has been burnt a major cause of global warming will disappear. There will then be 25,000 years of temperate climate before the thermometer takes a dip. After another 25,000 years of a boreal climate, periglacial conditions will set in.

Climates of the British Isles, Routledge (£65 and £19.99).

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TOM SHARPE

The Midden

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PAN

Ulster loyalists plotted attack on civil servants

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

POLICE in Northern Ireland have uncovered detailed plans by loyalist terrorists to murder civil servants working at the Anglo-Irish Secretariat on the outskirts of Belfast. A major review of security has been introduced after the discovery that car movements by staff at the heavily fortified secretariat had been monitored.

More than 20 senior British and Irish civil servants formally liaise at the Maryfield secretariat, under the auspices of the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement. One source there said: "The information compiled by the loyalists has given us quite a shock."

Security had been relaxed following the loyalist ceasefire in October 1994. Irish civil servants will now be stopped from using the small Belfast City Airport, and will instead use RAF Aldergrove, 20 miles away, where they will be met by armed RUC guards. The Maryfield source said: "The Irish civil servants have been using the special Shorts terminal at the city airport. But there is a concern that having the Irish airforce jet with its insignia waiting near the Shorts factory could cause difficulty because the workforce is predominantly Protestant."

An attack on the Maryfield secretariat, which is protected by barbed wire and 24-hour armed guards on the main road out of East Belfast, would mark a dramatic escalation of loyalist violence. The Ulster Defence Association has been blamed for a series of unclaimed terrorist attacks in the past five months, but the Government has insisted that the 30-month loyalist ceasefire is still in force. That position will be more difficult to sustain after the discovery.

The attack will have been planned by the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Redhand Commando or the newly formed dissident Loyalist Volunteer Force. The UDA, the UVF and the RHC come together under the umbrella of the Combined Loyalist Military Command which declared the ceasefire in October 1994. The LVF has been formed in recent weeks by hardline Loyalists.

The hardliners have long regarded the Maryfield secretariat as a prize target because the spacious offices give the Irish Government a formal consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland. The Irish joint secretary, David Donoghue, is entitled to consult his British opposite number, Peter Bell, on a range of issues from security to fair-employment legislation. During last year's marching season, Irish civil servants at Maryfield regularly telephoned leaders of the nationalist residents' groups which opposed a series of Orange marches.

The evidence of a loyalist plan to attack Maryfield came as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, gave a blunt warning that the IRA would maintain its terrorist campaign. In a speech to his party's annual conference in Monaghan, in the Irish Republic, he said: "The reality of British rule in Ireland means that the IRA remains a potent force in this situation, with volunteers like Diarmuid O'Neill [shot dead in London last September] prepared to unselfishly pit themselves against British rule in our country."

Mr Adams attempted to step up pressure on the next Government by hinting that the IRA would renew its ceasefire if Britain relaxed the conditions for Sinn Fein's entry to the Stormont talks. He demanded an assurance that Sinn Fein would be admitted to the talks immediately after a ceasefire and that the issue of terrorist arms would not be allowed to dominate the talks. The conference was delayed by two months to act as a springboard for the party's election campaign.

MI5 assassination alert for election

By Michael Evans and Stewart Tendler

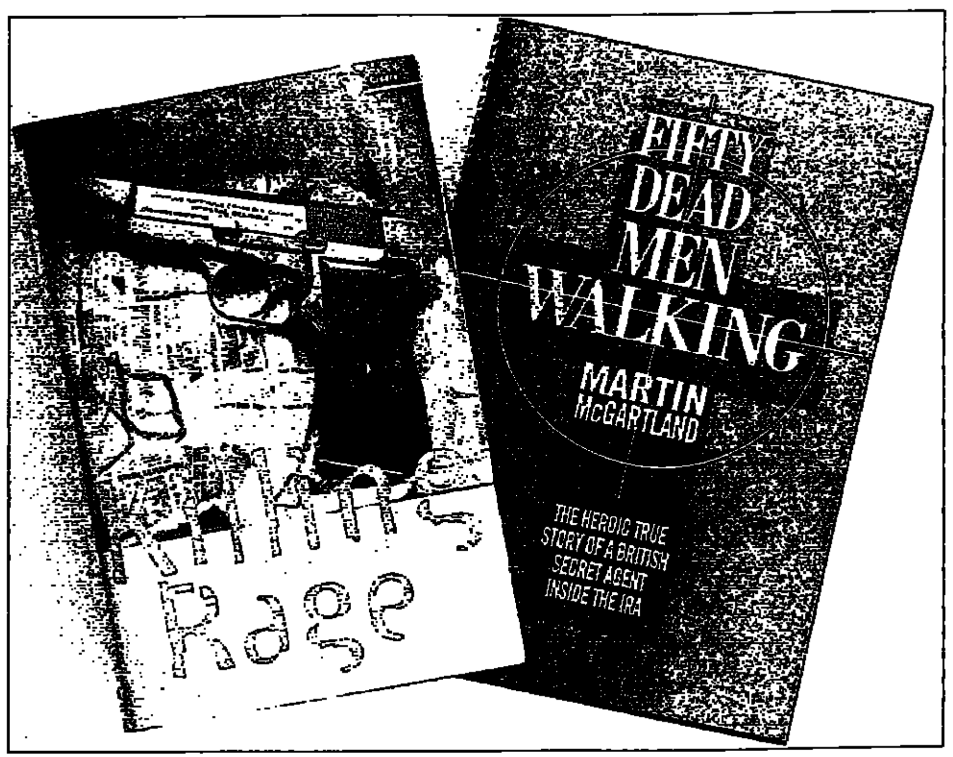
POLITICIANS and officials linked to the Government's Northern Ireland strategy have been given new warnings about possible IRA assassination attempts in the lead-up to polling day.

The number of political figures and officials receiving maximum protection, with round-the-clock armed bodyguards, is believed to be about 20. Extra precautions have been offered to other possible targets, and police have advised on daily routines.

The decision to tighten security comes amid a high general security alert on the mainland after a series of IRA blasts and hoaxes. MI5 and police intelligence officers believe the IRA strategy is highly unpredictable and could move up a gear. MI5, which provides the threat assessment, has been warning for some time that the IRA is likely to resort to a range of attacks, including assassination attempts, to gain publicity before the election.

MI5's assessment is being reviewed on a daily basis. But security sources would not confirm whether there was no "specific" evidence of an imminent assassination attempt. A number of known IRA gunmen have recently left their normal addresses in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, but the sources said this could be for a number of reasons.

A special unit linked to MI5 has recently been providing additional alarms and other protective equipment to the homes of those believed to be on IRA lists. Those receiving armed protection include former Northern Ireland ministers and officials in the Northern Ireland Office and in Downing Street who played a part in formulating the policy on Ulster.



Killing Rage by Eamon Collins, below left, and *Fifty Dead Men Walking* by Martin McGartland, below centre. Sean O'Callaghan, right, won a £175,000 advance

Former IRA men follow SAS authors into print

By Our Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE activities of the IRA are providing rich pickings for publishers as an unprecedented number of former terrorists rush into print with accounts of their violent lives.

Publishing houses have paid large advances to the republican authors in the hope of cashing in on the success of the recent series of books by former SAS soldiers.

Transworld Publishers, which is making millions from Andy McNab's books on the SAS, is paying a £175,000 advance to Sean O'Callaghan, the former IRA leader who acted as a police informer. The advance, which dwarfs the £100,000 paid last year to Gerry Adams for his autobiography, was agreed after a bidding war.

Mr O'Callaghan, 42, who was released from prison last year, will write a detailed account of the planning of the IRA's assassination of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in his boat off the west coast of Ireland in 1979. He will also link leading members of Sinn Fein with the planning of specific terrorist crimes.

Two other books by republicans who have turned their backs on the IRA were almost sold out within days of their publication last week. Waterstone's in Belfast and Dublin are having to order new copies of *Killing Rage*, published by Granta, which tells how Eamon Collins used the cover of his job as a customs officer in Northern Ireland to target soldiers in the early 1980s.

Blake Publishing has started a second print run of *Fifty Dead Men Walking* after 10,000 copies were sold within a week. The book is an account by a former RUC agent, Martin McGartland, of how he saved the lives of 50 men by infiltrating the IRA. Mr McGartland, 27, who was known by the RUC as "agent Carol", tells in the book of how he escaped an IRA "punishment squad" by jumping out of a third-floor window of a flat in West Belfast as he was being held for questioning.

The advances paid dwarf the meagre wages paid to IRA "volunteers". The IRA pays £10 a week to ordinary "volunteers", and up to £50 a week to more senior members. However, the financial rewards have come at a price. Mr O'Callaghan and Mr McGartland have been forced to live in hiding in England, while Mr Collins was badly injured in a hit and run accident on the outskirts of his hometown of Newry, Co Down, last week by a suspected republican.

Sinn Fein and the IRA have been infuriated by Mr Collins's detailed account of the six years he spent in the IRA in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Republicans are fed up with Mr O'Callaghan's relentless criticism of the IRA since his release from prison last year. A recent edition of *Republican News*, the Sinn Fein and IRA newspaper, carried a centre-page article which sought to undermine his credibility by questioning his mental stability.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Striking firemen face threat of suspension

Striking firefighters in Essex have been threatened with suspension and told they will not be paid for missing part of their shift (Lin Jenkins writes). The Fire Brigades Union said the threat could escalate the dispute as firemen returned to work yesterday after a 24-hour walkout. Some were told that their pay for a whole shift would be docked even though they missed only an hour's work to comply with the union action. The union says the action has 100 per cent support. The firemen are striking over council spending cuts.

Essex County Council said it would suspend all fire crews if more strikes were called beyond the two four-hour stoppages scheduled for today and tomorrow. An official for the union said the council's response made it more difficult to settle the dispute over planned changes in the service to meet financial targets. "If they seriously believe that by docking our pay and threatening us with suspension they will help resolve this dispute, they are grossly underestimating our response," he said. During the stoppage, two of the 25 Army Green Goddesses and eight RAF resuce tenders covering the 18 fire stations, broke down as they answered more than 80 minor or malicious calls. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute ended without agreement last week.

Hargreaves death plea

The husband of the climber Alison Hargreaves is asking a Scottish court to declare her officially dead. Ms Hargreaves, 33, vanished 20 months ago while climbing in Pakistan on K2, the world's second highest peak. It was accepted that she had plunged to her death, but her body has never been recovered from the crevasses and ravines of the high glaciers. Now Jim Ballard has asked Fort William Sheriff Court to rule that his wife, who is also survived by their two children — Tom, 8, and Kate, 6 — died on August 13, 1995. Ms Hargreaves had earlier become the first woman to climb Mount Everest alone and without bottled oxygen. Three months later she similarly reached the summit of K2.

'Scots uprising' apology

The Ministry of Defence has apologised to people in the Outer Hebrides after soldiers on war games were told, in an unapproved scenario, to pretend to suppress a local uprising. About 400 members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, among those involved in Exercise Spring Challenge in the Western Isles, were briefed to subdue the island populations of Benbecula and Uist. Troops were told that they were taking part in a simulated invasion of Benbecula because a newly formed Scottish government had asked the English for help to quash the threat of a Hebridean uprising. Some soliders pretended to be rebel crofters trying to seize a Rapier missile system.

Hunt for missing tycoon

Israeli police have asked British detectives for their help in finding a missing multimillionaire who was a former director of Blackburn Rovers football club. Walter Hubert, 65, lived in St Anne's in Lancashire before emigrating to Israel ten years ago. He was director of the football club in the 1960s and 1970s and had served in the posts of vice-chairman and finance director. Mr Hubert, who is believed to suffer from a heart condition, is reported to have flown from Jerusalem to London on March 10. He is then reported to have visited the Czech Republic and Germany. The millionaire was last seen on March 20, when two business associates met him in Frankfurt.

Horror through the post

Four classic figures from horror literature will stare out from a new set of Royal Mail stamps issued on May 13. The stamps, featuring Dracula, right, Frankenstein's monster, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and the Hound of the Baskervilles, include details in ultra-violet ink which will glow in the dark. The technique highlights Dracula's castle in front of a glowing moon and bolts of lightning behind Frankenstein.

Dracula

Road rage victim is beaten with rice flail

By A Staff Reporter

A DRIVER beaten to the ground with a martial arts weapon in a "road-rage" attack underwent a five-hour operation yesterday. His family fear he may have suffered brain damage.

Jimmy Demetriou slumped to the ground in a pool of blood as the attacker, ignoring the screams of his daughter, Katrina, 13, and his wife, Suzanne, hit him seven times with a rice flail — two batons joined by a chain.

Mrs Demetriou, 34, said: "He smashed him virtually to death as he collapsed in my arms." She said the man "didn't give a damn and he didn't even bat an eyelid".

Speaking at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, Mrs Demetriou said the attack happened when Mr Demetriou stopped his car shortly after leaving their home in Southgate, north London, on Saturday night to visit relatives. Katrina, in the back seat, was scared they would be hit by a car following close.

Mr Demetriou, 35, a salesman, got out of his car and said: "What's your problem?" to the other driver, who had pulled up behind. Mrs Demetriou said the attacker pulled out the rice flails and said: "This is my problem." He struck Mr Demetriou as his wife raced around the car to try to help him. She said her daughter was running around in circles and screaming during the attack.

An 18-year-old man was being questioned by police yesterday.

Tory feud

Continued from page 1

survival of Britain as nation state is at risk because of our membership of the European Union."

There is irritation among some Tory strategists over Mr Clarke's stand. On Saturday, in the continuing row over the Tory advertisement showing Tony Blair sitting on Chancellor Kohl's knee, he said that claims that Europe was a threat were "paranoid nonsense" and yesterday he called for an end to the raising of imaginary European "plots" against Britain.

Other ministers played down the differences. Michael Heseltine said: "Both Ken and Michael are deeply opposed to changing Britain immigration policy and handing it over to Europe. I know both of them are wholly opposed to a European defence policy and a European foreign policy."

Mr Blair meanwhile claimed that he was better placed to negotiate in Amsterdam because he would have a united government behind him. He told *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio: "Judge me by what I have done in the Labour Party. I have transformed it in the way I said I would. Judge Mr Major by how he has run the Conservative party which, 11 days away from the election, is in a state of civil war. Then judge who would best represent Britain in Europe."

Mr Brown said the controversy showed that the Tory Party had split into two. "This is the big one. Kenneth Clarke and Michael Howard have declared war on one another. The two Tory parties are up and running and at one another's throats. Today will be seen as the first full day of the Tory leadership campaign."

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Activists attack beagle breeder's home

Mother and two children cower as house is stormed

By Dareh Gregorian

A WOMAN and her two young children cowered in terror as animal welfare protesters attacked their home with bricks and bottles at the weekend.

Alison Little, 28, was alone with her seven-month-old daughter and son aged 4 when activists looking for her husband shattered windows and tried to kick in the front door of the house in Belmont, Hereford.

The protesters were among 250 who had earlier clashed with police at a beagle breeding kennel in Hereford and Worcester, where Adam Little is manager. The group, numbering about a dozen, smashed five windows before fleeing when police arrived.

"I was lucky because a neighbour who saw the protesters arriving rang me to warn me they were on their way," Mrs Little said. "I rang 999, drew the curtains, and then scooped up my baby daughter, Amber, and told Laurence to go upstairs."

During the assault, on Saturday, "they were shouting abuse and they said this was my punishment for being married to a 'murdering bastard'. When they started throwing things at the house I was absolutely terrified.

"I tried to explain to my little boy what was going on because they were shouting things and he could hear the windows smashing. Then I heard the back gate going and I heard the back patio window being smashed. There was glass all over the floor and a brick had been hurled through the window.

"It was at that point that I picked up the baby and pushed my little boy into the corner away from the windows and told him to go upstairs for a few minutes.

"I then peered out of the small windows in the front door, which had been smashed, and saw a man wearing a black balaclava just staring at me with my baby in my arms. I was absolutely petrified and told them I was on my own with two small children, but I don't think they believed me.

"The lounge window then came through and I was scared they were going to climb in. If they had got in I don't want to think about what they might have done."

The family spent last night at a different address and Mrs Little said they were going to move from the newly built house they moved into 23 months ago. "I respect these people's views, but for the sake of the children we have got to move. You never know what will be next. It could be a petrol bomb," Mrs Little said, adding: "They may say they love animals, but they scared the hell out of our cat, Winky."

Mr Little, 30, was at his job at Consort Kennels at Harewood End, near Ross-on-Wye, when the attack happened. "My children or my wife could have been hurt and I can't see that smashing windows is anything to do with loving animals," Mr Little said.

He said all the beagles at the kennels were well cared for, and although some were used for biomedical research, none was used in research to test the safety of cosmetics.

Over 200 activists targeted Consort Kennels earlier in the day. A police spokesman said that most became "engaged in a concerted and violent attack on the premises and police officers present". Several officers were injured, one being knocked unconscious. Twenty-four people were arrested at that protest and more arrests are expected, the spokesman said.

Police have not made any arrests connected with the assault on the Littles' home and are appealing for witnesses.

DAVID JONES

Adam Little and some of the damage to his house after the attack at the weekend. The family plans to move

Killer tortures pub landlady to death for takings in safe

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

A ROBBER tortured a pub landlady to force her to open a safe and then stabbed his victim to death, detectives said yesterday.

Carol Fyfe's body was found in her bedroom above the Prince Arthur public house near Euston station, in north London, by her barman. Her elderly and blind dog was by her side unhurt.

The 36-year-old had been stabbed in the neck and £2,500 was missing from her safe. Another £300 to £500 collected for a pensioners' outing was also missing.

Appealing for witnesses, Detective Superintendent John Yates said: "It is an horrific murder. It was highly sadistic to kill this defenceness woman for what is in reality a paltry sum of money. There was no reason to kill her. It is appalling."

Regarded as a successful publican, Miss Fyfe, who came from Edinburgh, had been managing the Prince Arthur for Whitbread for about 2½ years. The pub, in Eversholt Road close to the station, was described yesterday as a typical London local.

Police believe that the killer slipped out of one of the bars and hid elsewhere in the building. Miss Fyfe locked up, cashed the money from the tills and then got undressed for bed in her room on the second floor. Her pet bull terrier Sid was with her.

Her killer seized her. She tried to struggle but was beaten about the head. She was taken downstairs and forced to deactivate alarms. The killer made her unlock a basement office and the safe.

Police believe he then dragged her upstairs and stabbed her in the neck. As he made his way out of the pub he also took an empty gallon whisky bottle which was filled with cash, mainly banknotes, collected from a bar lottery to fund a pensioners' outing.

The dead woman was found on Friday morning by a barman who lives on another floor of the premises.

As regulars laid flowers outside the pub, Miss Fyfe's boyfriend, who is a postman, was said to be in shock.

Her mother, Catherine, said she had spoken to her daughter the night before she died. She said: "She was the best daughter a mother could wish for. She never did any harm to anyone. What kind of a madman could do this?"

Carol Fyfe: beaten and stabbed in the neck

Five killed in stolen car as they flee police

By Russell Jenkins

FIVE young men died in a stolen car early yesterday after speeding away from a police patrol. The car broke in half when it hit a tree at 80mph (Russell Jenkins writes).

Relatives later placed flowers at the crash scene at Crumpsall, Manchester. The dead were aged from 16 to the early 20s, and three are thought to have lived in the same road. Fingerprints were being taken from the bodies to aid identification.

The Ford Orion had been reported stolen a few hours earlier by a student at Salford University. Two police officers on routine patrol in a dog van indicated for it to stop when it made a sudden halt near them at traffic lights shortly after midnight.

The stolen car accelerated away, executed an erratic U-turn across the central reservation and heading towards Cheetham, going through two sets of traffic lights. Police said that the pursuit lasted only one minute and 25 seconds before the car span out of control after swerving to avoid another vehicle.

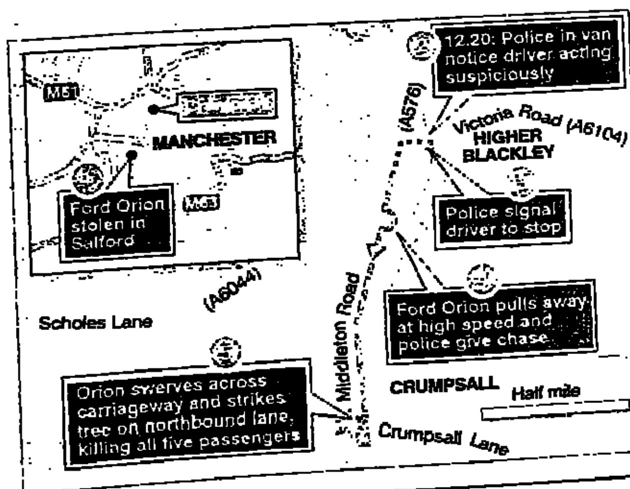
At that point, the police van was 150 yards behind with its siren wailing. Officers were astonished that the car split into two, with the separate sections coming to rest at least 20 yards apart. Chief Superintendent Peter Harris, of Greater Manchester police, said: "It is probably the worst accident that some of us have ever seen. The officers in the van were quite shaken up."

Clive Heather, an operations manager for Greater Manchester ambulance service, said: "I have never witnessed the carnage that I saw. The devastation is quite traumatic."

One bunch of flowers left at the crash scene said: "To our kid, I'll miss you always." Another said: "To Jamie, Shaun, Peter and John. I will miss you always. Brian, Karl and Steve."

Bereavement counsellors were trying to help relatives. One victim's brother, who refused to be named, said: "This has devastated five families. There are five mums who have all lost sons because of this. We have come here to try to work out what happened. The police should not have been chasing them."

A police inspector from the Wigan division and the Accident Investigation Unit will investigate the incident.


M61
MANCHESTER
Ford Orion stolen in Salford
M63
12.20: Police in van notice driver acting suspiciously
(A576)
Victoria Road (A6104)
HIGHER BLACKLEY
Police signal driver to stop
(A6044)
Scholes Lane
Middleton Road
Ford Orion pulls away at high speed and police give chase
Orion swerves across carriageway and strikes tree on northbound lane, killing all five passengers
CRUMPSALL
Half mile
Crumpsall Lane

Lady White: rift with family is denied

Lady White sells up for new life on Idaho farm

By Dalya Alberge

THE widow of the tycoon Lord White of Hull is selling art and antiques from their Californian mansion, because they will not fit into her new life as the bride of a millionaire Idaho farmer.

The former model Victoria Tucker, 34, who was 40 years younger than Lord White, still styles herself Lady White of Hull. An ornate Russian chandelier and bronze candelabra are among items from the Bel Air home expected to fetch about £3.5 million at Christie's in New York.

Lord White, was a swashbuckling corporate raider who built up a £10 billion empire with Lord Hanson. He was made a life peer in 1991 and died in 1995. Christie's said that some pieces to be auctioned from April 30 had been left to his widow and others to a family trust which includes Lord White's son, Lucas.

The auction house vigorously denied reports of a rift between the widow and other members of the family following her marriage to a former boyfriend, Tom O'Gara. "There is nothing sinister," said Ted Lennox-Boyd, specialist in European furniture at Christie's. "These are things that she doesn't generally see fitting into her new life."

Complaints spur watchdog to pull plug on Mr Angry

By Stephen Farrell

MR ANGRY, the Irate Father and other telephone pranksters should soon be a scourge of the past after the industry watchdog abruptly lost its sense of humour.

Hoax premium-rate calls so beloved of office practical jokers have prompted many complaints. Practical jokers tell victims to call a number. They are then strung along by a recorded tape.

Last year 220 complaints were made to Icstis, the Independent Committee For the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, with a further 139 in the first quarter of 1997. Most victims protest at the waste of time and money, but some expressed anxiety about the content.

The most common "wind-ups" include an irate father accusing the caller of making his daughter pregnant with triplets; a supposed Army barracks asking why the victim has not reported for active service in Bosnia and a woman constantly being interrupted by dogs barking.

One woman was so upset by a Mr Angry service that she called the police. Another collapsed after believing she had spoken to a driver moments before he crashed his car.

The services cost between 39p and 45p a minute, with 30 per cent going to the company that rents the line and the remainder to the firm responsible for how it is used.

One hoax lasted eight minutes and cost £3.84 at peak rates. A Bristol company was fined £3,402 after 25 complaints. Icstis plans to take emergency procedures to cut off companies that fail to warn people a practical joke is being played.

An Icstis spokeswoman said: "People do not know they are talking on a premium-rate line."

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Relaunch for lottery cards after nation loses itch to scratch

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE National Lottery is planning to relaunch scratchcards in an attempt to improve sales. Camelot scratchcard sales dropped to a record low of £14 million in the first week of April, from a high of £44.4 million in May 1995. Louise White, a spokesman for Camelot, said the company was working on a host of ways to revive the game, which donates 28p in the pound to charity. These include a marketing push, a television game show and scores of games offering innovative prizes.

"We did predict that the market would drop, but we would not want it to fall any lower. It is not a disaster, but if it gets any lower we will not reach our targets," she said. Ms White said that Camelot had applied to the lottery regulator, Oflot, for permission to run a television game show linked to scratchcards.

Details of the game have not been confirmed, but it is expected that some cards will carry a special panel, which players would scratch for the chance of a place on the game show. On the show they would compete for cash and luxury prizes. The BBC, which has the contract to screen the National Lottery draw until the autumn, has the first option on the show.

Ms White said that the company was also reconsidering its marketing approach to scratchcards. "We need to look at the Instants as a brand to see if they are positioned properly," she said.

The company has found that scratchcard games with the highest jackpot prizes do not necessarily sell best. Frequently the games that offer lower prizes, but higher odds on winning, perform better.

One of the most successful lines of Camelot scratchcard featured a picture of a pig with wings and was called Pigs Might Fly, which had a top prize of £10,000 and which was issued last July. The odds on winning a prize were one in four, rather than the usual one in five.

Camelot sold 62 million Pigs Might Fly cards — almost as many as in its Christmas Bonus scratchcard game in December 1995 which had a record top prize of £100,000.

Lisa Bond, a spokeswoman for Camelot, said: "Trivial and humorous things seem to appeal to consumers, not necessarily just the big jackpots."

Ms Bond said that the company was also considering importing several scratchcard games from the Continent.

One popular version of the game in Europe does not pay out a single jackpot. Instead winners get a fixed sum at regular intevals. "The prize could be £100 a month for the next year," Ms Bond said.

Camelot launched its first scratchcard game in March 1995. The decline in scratchcard sales can be dated back to the week in January 1996 when Camelot's online lottery game offered its first double rollover jackpot. Camelot's main scratchcard rival, Littlewoods, has also seen its sales decline to around £1 million a week, from roughly double that.

Andrew Slamin, director of sales and marketing with Littlewoods scratchcards, said: "The market constantly needs new products to keep going. We have found that each game should not last more than ten to 12 weeks."

Sales of Camelot's online game are stable. Since a second weekly online draw was introduced in February, weekly sales have risen by 20 per cent to around £97 million a week. Saturday draw sales have declined slightly from around £66 million to £60 million, but the midweek draw is now selling around 27 million tickets a week.

KIERAN DOHERTY

Peter Tatchell of the gay rights group Outrage! confronting Dr Carey in the gardens of Lambeth Palace yesterday

Gay rights protesters confront archbishop

By Lin Jenkins

GAY rights campaigners waved banners when they ambushed the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday at a photocall in his palace garden for 16 primates from around the world. Dr George Carey was clearly angry as Peter Tatchell, of OutRage!, berated him over the Church of England's stance on homosexuality.

He told Mr Tatchell that his manner was offensive and asked him to leave. Scuffles broke out as palace staff tried to restrain Mr Tatchell when he grabbed Dr Carey's arm.

Dr Carey, who is hosting a meeting to plan next year's Lambeth Conference, was showing his visitors around the gardens at Lambeth Palace. Mr Tatchell and nine other protesters had climbed over the wall and hidden in bushes.

Mr Tatchell said the action was in response to Dr Carey's refusal to meet the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement and comments rejecting clergy participation in homosexual relationships.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

TV inquisitor's penetrating gaze hides blind spot

FEW of Mrs Merton's fans have noticed that she has one very dominant eye. When Mrs Merton strips the veneer from her victims, she does it with an outrageous question, an amusing little laugh and her famous penetrating stare, all the more remarkable as she is almost blind in one eye.

Caroline Aherne, who plays Mrs Merton, a spoof elderly television chat-show host, was born with a retinoblastoma, a malignant growth on the retina, which affects about one in every 20,000 children. Retinoblastoma is not always an hereditary disease, but it is in the 10 per cent of cases where other members of the family are affected and in the 20-30 per cent of cases in which both eyes are affected by the tumour.

Anyone who suffers from the inherited form of the disease, as Ms Aherne does, has a 50-50 chance of passing the gene responsible for the condition to the next generation.

Inheriting the gene does not always result in the recipient developing a tumour, as only about 20 per cent of the children who have it become carriers, free of the cancer but capable of later passing it to their children.

As Ms Aherne has a family history of the disease — her brother is also affected, and in his case both eyes have been involved — any child she might have would have an evens chance of having a retinoblastoma. Not unreasonably, she says she has decided not to take the risk. Although rare, tumour retinoblastomas account for about 2 per cent of the cancers which are diagnosed in children. The diagnosis is usually made before the child is two.

If the cancer is treated in its earlier stages, the therapy is nearly always life preserving. If only one eye has been affected it can be removed. If both eyes are affected the worst can be taken out and the other treated with radiation; other methods involve laser treatment and chemotherapy.

Ms Aherne has described how her elder brother's eye troubles were first diagnosed because their mother noticed that when a light shone into them the pupil appeared to be white rather than black. She was describing a sign which is now known as the "cat's eye pupil". Once suspicion has been aroused, further tests can define the extent of the disease.

About 70 per cent of patients with the inherited form of the disease will, despite the treatment they already have, develop a second tumour.

This new growth may either occur in a previously untreated part of the retina or, in about half the cases, in an area already irradiated. Further treatment is then needed.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TUESDAY
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TIMES
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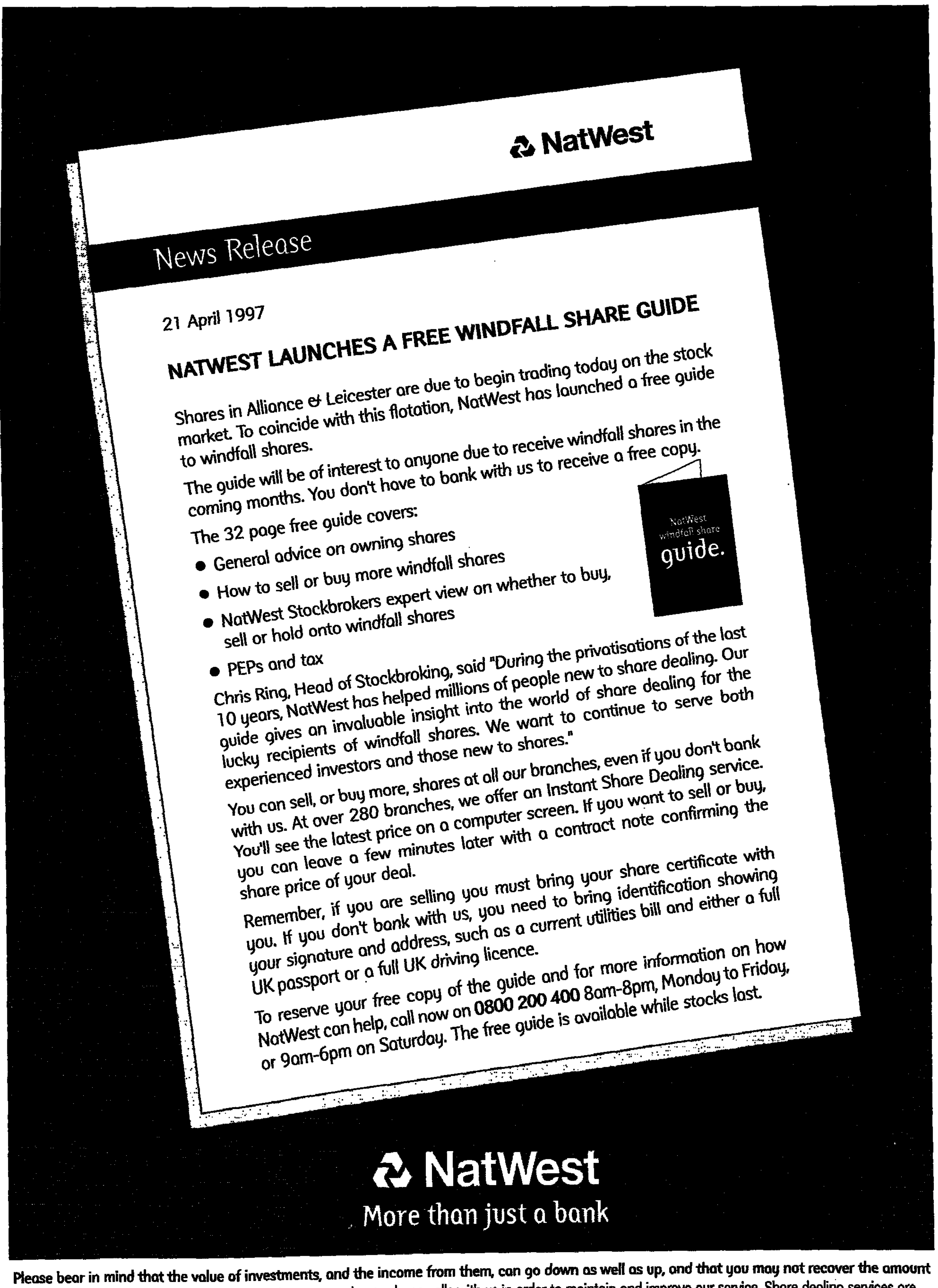

NatWest

News Release

21 April 1997

NATWEST LAUNCHES A FREE WINDFALL SHARE GUIDE

Shares in Alliance & Leicester are due to begin trading today on the stock market. To coincide with this flotation, NatWest has launched a free guide to windfall shares.

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- PEPs and tax

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Pages of instant history crumbling to dust

By Alan Hamilton

A NATIONAL archive of great importance is gradually turning to dust in a wholly unsuitable building in an obscure corner of north London.

The British Library newspaper library at Colindale is the repository of the nation's press. More than 600,000 bound volumes fill 18 miles of shelving, and each year some 40,000 researchers dig in the library's boundless mine of instant history.

But newspapers contain the seeds of their own destruction. Cheap wood-pulp paper, introduced in the 1840s and in universal use as newsprint ever since, is chemically unstable and has a limited shelf life. As a result, dozens of the library's volumes are now so fragile, and on the verge of crumbling to brown powder, that they can no longer be made available to readers.

Built in 1930, the library is an antiquated warren with no means of controlling temperature or humidity to protect the newspapers from decay. It is also bursting at the seams: volumes have to be stored upright, rather than flat, which aids preservation.

Under copyright law, publishers must send a copy of every edition to Colindale: last year alone it was deluged with 180,000 copies of Britain's 2,700 newspaper titles.

The answer, say librarians, is microfilming, and all newspapers now arriving are filmed. Film is much more stable and takes a fraction of the space, but they already have 320,000 reels of it. However, a vast stock of older newspapers still exists only in delicate printed form, and is in danger of being lost forever. The library is preparing a bid for a lottery grant to finance a backlog of filming: no fewer than 11 million newspaper pages are at risk, and it would cost an estimated £1.8 million to film them.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

John Byford inspects some of the fragile newspapers

Librarians prefer microfilming to scanning the papers with an electronic reader and storing their contents on computer. Film, they argue, is simple and permanent: in a century's time, today's digital technology may well have gone the way of the wax gramophone cylinder.

Curiously, many of Colindale's best-preserved newspapers are its oldest. Copies of the *Edinburgh Gazette* of 1699, or the *Cambridge Journal* of the 1720s, printed on virtually indestructible paper made from rags, have deteriorated little since they hit the streets.

Colindale is the poor relation of the British Library, and its annual budget of around £1.25 million is loose change when compared with the £500 million cost of building the British Library's state-of-the-art headquarters at St Pancras, which already has no room for the newspaper collection. But Colindale is so well used that last year it had to open an additional reading room to reduce the queues. John Byford, the librarian, said he received more than 1,000 applications for readers' tickets each year, and the number was growing.

"There is a rising awareness among students of all disciplines of what newspapers can provide. They are valuable because they record what was happening at the time. They are immediate: they tell you far more than books, often written years later, of what was going on at a particular time."

His customers are a varied lot. Many are tracing family history, a good few are lawyers boning up on the background to a case, some are novelists researching period colour, and a steady trickle are the merely curious who ask for back copies of *Radio Times* to see what was on television 30 years ago.

Irish historians often make their way to Mr Byford's front door. Since the Irish set fire to many of their own archives during the troubles of 1921, Colindale retains the world's best collection of Irish newspapers. It also claims to have the only complete collection in existence of *The Sun*.

However, the title most in demand is, naturally, *The Times*. While lesser journals are bound for the library shelves in common old buckram, we are gratified to record that copies of this newspaper are clothed in the finest goatskin morocco.

Letters, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leaflet drop for Kashmir hostages

Relatives of two British hostages captured in Kashmir 21 months ago have dropped leaflets by helicopter appealing for information. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan were among six hostages taken in July 1995 by terrorists opposed to Indian rule in Kashmir. Bob Wells, Paul's father, Catherine Moseley, his girlfriend, and Julie Mangan, Mr Mangan's wife, were accompanied by James Bowman of the Hostages in Kashmir campaign.

Rail workers hurt

Three rail workers were injured, one seriously, when a train clipped the trackside scaffolding where they were carrying out bridge repairs on the line between Lewes and Eastbourne in Sussex. The accident, involving a ballast train, happened near Glynde.

Horses corralled

Dublin is to get a special horse pound after a number of people have been injured by stray horses. A baby was recently hurt when a runaway horse overturned his pram. The pound will be secure and owners will have to pay to reclaim their animals.

Hospital Bill

A hospital has been given its own policeman to combat crime and violence against staff. Special Constable Lloyd Tyrrell is to patrol Kettering General Hospital as a part of his beat, said Northamptonshire Police. Security cameras are also to be installed.

Brewers' hiccup

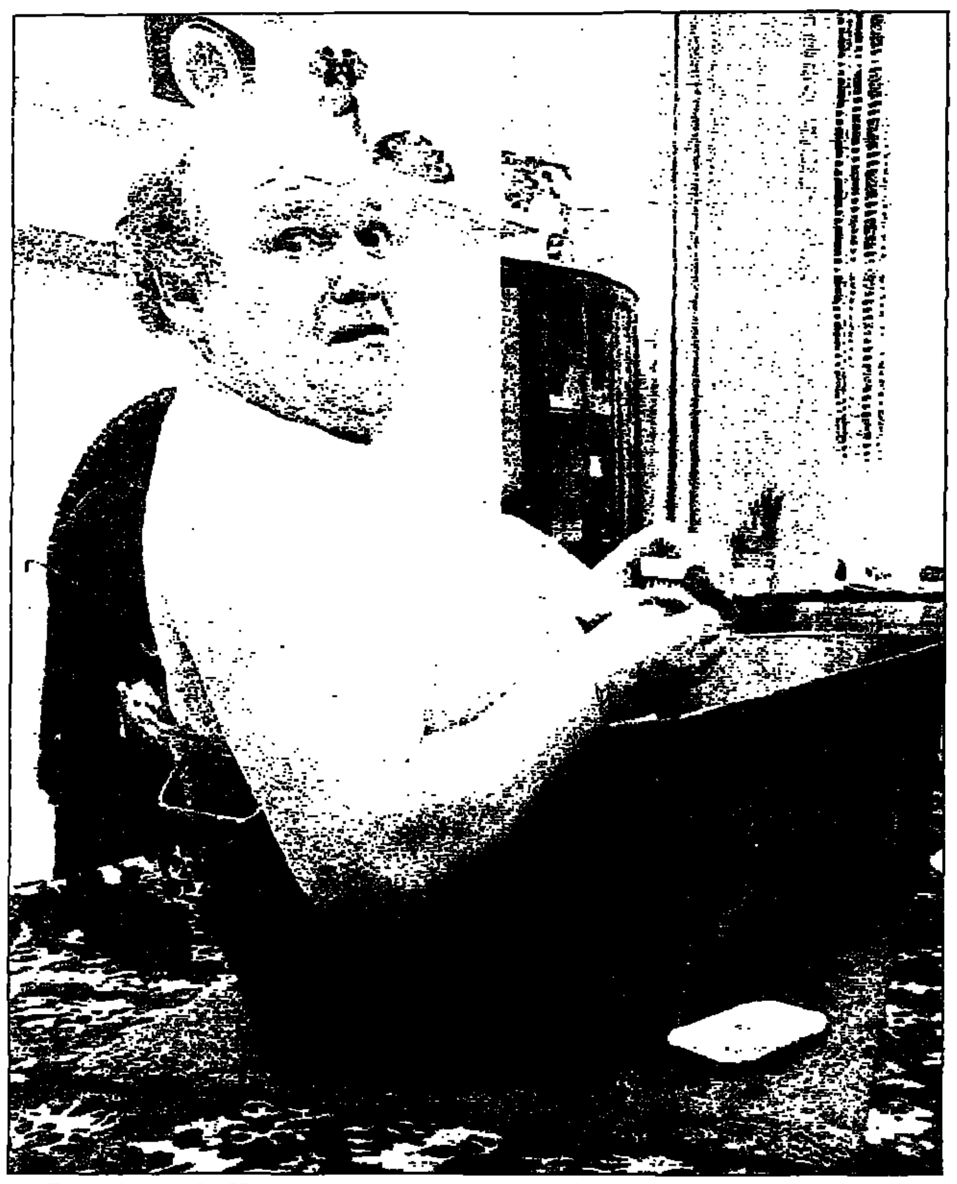
A beer festival was unable to open for a final session yesterday at Tucker's Maltings in Newton Abbot, Devon, because it ran out of beer. About 14,000 pints plus back-up supplies had been drained since Thursday night, after 4,000 real-ale fans arrived.

Queen in drag

A town carnival which could not find a procession queen last year is prepared to enrol a man in drag for this year's event. Janet Barber, the carnival chairman at Okehampton, Devon, said: "If a young man wanted to come forward for fun, we would be happy."

Classic propaganda films offer second take on vanished Britain

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor



Roy Kinnear in *Hot Water*, a 1978 commercial for home improvement grants

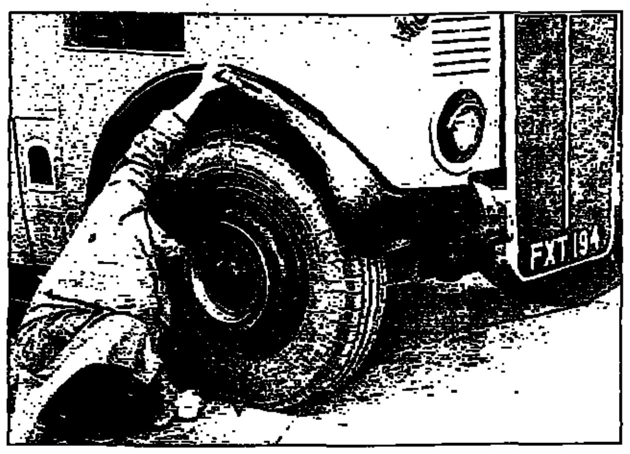
GOVERNMENT propaganda films are to be marketed for the first time by a private company. The black and white reels, many used as cinema shorts after the Second World War, are to be made available to television, film and CD-Rom producers.

The films come from an era when government advertisements were polite — no hard-hitting warnings about Aids, for example — and staffed by characters of the type latterly satirised by Harry Enfield.

Charley, the cynical Englishman who did not believe the promises of the National Health Service, is just one cartoon character who could be set for a comeback. "Why should I pay National Insurance?" was one of his catchphrases. He was the original British moaning Minnie, used to sell the merits of the NHS and how it would work.

The 1970s "Clunk Click Every Trip" message from Jimmy Savile persuaded the country to belt up behind the wheel, while children will remember how they were taught to cross the road with the Green Cross Code.

In the light of the *E. coli* outbreak, *Clean Food* might deserve a rerelease. The 1950s film reminded people about personal hygiene and instructed butchers how to store and display meat.



On the road: a bus inspector checks safety rules; the Green Cross Man warns children

Richard Massingham's public information trailers might also be revived. "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases" was one of his creations.

The official moving image of British daily life has been chronicled for the past 50 years by the Central Office of Information, which promotes the British way of life abroad and delivers public messages at home. Last week more than 10,000 films were transferred from the COI's headquarters in Waterloo to vaults near Euston Station, London in readiness for possible reuse. The Crown will retain copyright and ownership and the Treasury hopes to generate some income.

Peter Fidler, of Film Images, which will market the clips, said last night: "We are going to transfer all the old film on to video and we are going to compile new listings of the available material. There is so much fascinating material here.

"It could be ideal for nostalgia television shows and for any independent producers wishing to show how Britain was."

The move represents the end of an era for Peter Steel, who has worked in the film division at the COI for 37 years. He is to retire shortly, but last night said of the films: "They are nostalgic and educational. It is a wonderful way to see how we were. One of the most amusing films is *Journey on a London Bus*. It was made for the African colonies and you see two Africans arriving in London and boarding a bus for the first time. There is no queue-jumping, no pushing, everyone is polite, and the driver makes every effort to keep his bus on time.

"It's a "feelgood" factor, but we made the film to show the colonies how to operate a bus. It was to influence people about our way of life and society."

Clergy wives afraid to tell of violence

CLERGYMEN'S wives who suffer mental, physical or sexual abuse by their husbands hesitate to ask the Church for help for fear of being turned away, according to researchers (Dareh Gregorian writes).

The study also cites clerical abuse of women from outside the Church who had sought counselling. It urges church leaders to recognise the problem and to establish a code of conduct with disciplinary measures to deal with abusers. Researchers at Edinburgh University conducted a two-year study involving interviews with 23 women who had suffered violence from church leaders.

They included six clergy wives. One woman from the North of England lived with physical abuse from her vicar husband for 22 years before getting a divorce. She tells her story on BBC1's *Here and Now* tonight. Lesley MacDonald, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Rather than giving refuge and support to the victims of abuse, the Church has tended to give refuge to the perpetrators of abuse. There has been a tendency for a closing of ranks." She will present the findings to church leaders at a conference in Edinburgh on Saturday.

All-night wait leaves opera fans standing

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

A PENSIONER and his daughter queued for almost 18 hours to be first in line for tickets for the new Glyndebourne season. They could afford standing tickets only.

Jeffrey Levett, 67, and his daughter Kate, 29, were among 450 opera lovers waiting when the box office opened for personal callers on Saturday morning in East Sussex. They had arrived at 3.30pm on Friday from Dorking, Surrey.

Ms Levett, a care assistant for the elderly and disabled, said: "We brought camp beds and blankets and slept right in front of the booking office." On a limited budget, they bought £10 tickets for Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

The majority of seats cost between £57 and £114, although some are between £16 and £36. Priority is given to members of the Festival Society, followed by those on the waiting list. The wait for membership is about 25 years. However, the number of tickets sold is restricted so that up to 40 per cent are available to the general public.

Ms Levett said: "It saddens me that seats are so expensive." Her father said: "We got about five hours' sleep. There were 45 to 50 people by midnight. There was a good feeling, lots of merriment."

A Glyndebourne spokesman said: "People brought picnics and flasks. Some had a Buck's Fizz breakfast. It was like the festival but in woollies. It's that British thing about queueing. It's heartwarming."

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TSB	18.9%	£116.33	£5,583.84	£423.84
Barclays	17.9%	£114.68	£5,504.64	£344.64
NatWest	16.9%	£112.78	£5,413.44	£253.44

Lender Typical Example	APR	A £7,000 Loan 48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving
RB Direct	13.4%	£186.66	£8,959.68	
Barclays	17.9%	£200.69	£9,633.12	£673.44
TSB	16.9%	£197.40	£9,475.20	£515.52
NatWest	15.9%	£194.27	£9,324.96	£365.28

The above rates include optional credit insurance. All rates correct as at [illegible]

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TOM KIDD

A diver collects sea urchin samples in Loch Creran, north of Oban. Farmed urchin roe has been sent to France for gastronomic approval

Salmon farmers look to sea urchin for salvation

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A POTENTIALLY lucrative industry is emerging off the west coast of Scotland, where scientists have pioneered the farming of sea urchins. They have found the urchins grow rapidly to a healthy size alongside salmon in cages.

The spiny shellfish, whose roe is much prized by gastronomes across the world in a market worth £500 million, has previously only been available from the wild. However, over-fishing has led to a decline in stocks.

Scottish fish farmers, whose profits from salmon farming have taken a beating because of stiff competition from overseas, most notably Norway, are hoping the scientists' breakthrough will reverse their fortunes.

Test batches of the eggs are being sent to France for approval by leading chefs. Maeve Kelly, one of the scientists involved in the research programme, said yesterday: "The species we are trying to farm is highly favoured in Paris, we understand." Dr Kelly, of the Scottish Association of Marine Science in Oban, Argyll, said the roe had a creamy texture and resembled "hazelnut with a hint of iodine". "The taste is initially very sweet with a long aftertaste that is, well, like urchin."

The breakthrough followed a chance observation early in 1992, when a sea cage used for farming salmon was found to contain thousands of sea urchins which had collected on the netting. The scientists found that *Psammechinus miliaris* appears to thrive with farmed Atlantic salmon.

After three months, urchins growing in the cages developed far bigger gonads, full of eggs, than urchins in the wild or ones farmed in cages without salmon. The species of urchin tested normally graze on kelp beds in the wild, but Dr Kelly said the research showed that they also thrived on the rich protein and oily diet fed by farmers to the salmon. Farmers could have two harvests for the price of one.

Last year the scientists, who are working with fish farmers who include Joseph Johnston and Sons of Ardtoe, Highland, won backing from the Natural Environment Research Council under the Trade and Industry Department's Link scheme. Full-scale sea trials are underway off Scourie, Highland.

Elizabeth Cook, a member of the team, said the beauty of *Psammechinus miliaris* was that, unlike other species on the European market, it tolerates cooler temperatures and lower water quality. She said it might also be possible to grow sea urchins alongside scallops. Another firm involved in the project, Loch Fyne Seafarms, has found that sea urchins settle and grow rapidly on scallop lines.

There are still some questions to be answered. Dr Kelly said they want to make sure the urchins do not pick up any viruses from the salmon. They are also studying special feeds to boost growth. She said it was hoped to scale up the research and create a commercial sea urchin fishery in "two to five years' time".

Robot puts Daisy in charge of the milking

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE fully automated milking parlour, in which cows come to be milked when the urge takes them and without need of direct human assistance, is about to change the face of British dairy farming.

On April 9, at a research farm near Winchester in Hampshire, the first cows began being milked not by a farmhand but by a computer-guided robot. Nearly two weeks on, they are still showing every sign of enjoying the experience.

"We have been astonished by how quickly the cows adapted," Bridget Drew, head of dairy research at the centre, said. "We will need six months to be sure there are no unforeseen hitches, but so far things look promising.

"I believe automated milking is better for the cows and could remove much of the drudgery from dairy farming, particularly for the small family outfit where the son does not want to get up at 4am after a late night out."

The system is being tested at Adas Bridgets, one of a network of experimental centres run by the newly privatised Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, the former research and consultancy arm of the Ministry of Agriculture. About 20 cows, brought in from neighbouring farms for the purpose, are taking part in the experiment. At the moment they live and sleep indoors next to the milker, but the aim is eventually to integrate the system with normal summer grazing.

A cow in the trial wears its transponder collar

Each cow wears an electronic collar, or transponder, which contains a number enabling the robot to recognise each animal individually and relate it to information stored in the computer database. After the cow enters the milking stall, or box, a gate closes behind it, and it is held gently in position by metal-barred side panels. While being milked, the cow feeds from a trough that is automatically filled with a pre-programmed portion of cereal-based concentrate.

A robotic arm with four upturned rubber cups extends beneath the cow's udder, locating the position of the four teats by means of ultrasonic sensors and then jiggling about until each teat has been sucked into one of the cups. "Once the cluster of cups is in position, it floats freely and can cope with any shuffling or even the occasional kick from the cow," according to Maarten van der Drift, product manager for Liberty Dairy Systems, the British distributor of the Dutch-developed machine.

"The cows seem to like it," he said. "We have had one which came back to be milked 15 times in one day, although that was unusual. The aim is to milk each cow three times a day, compared with the twice-a-day norm on most dairy farms."

The evidence so far is that milking three times daily raises milk yield by up to a fifth. Proponents of the automated system say more frequent milking is also better for the cow because it relieves pressure on the udder.

Stress gives eels that sinking feeling

By A Staff Reporter

DEPRESSED eels are to have their problems examined in a £1 million project organised by the European Commission. Eel farmers have found that the normally active creatures are turning listless and sinking to the bottom of their tanks.

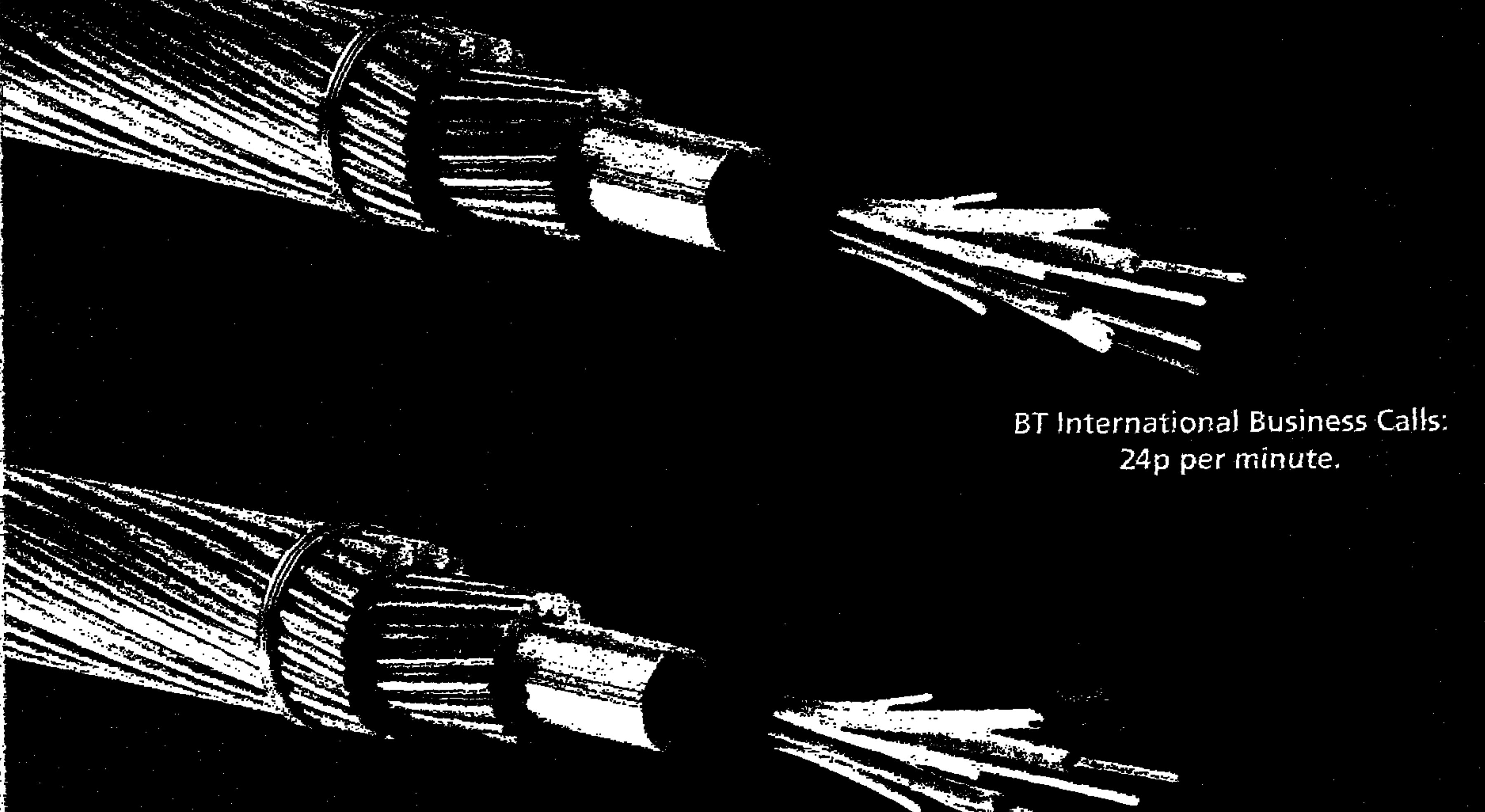
Eels are now classed as one of the most expensive delicacies in the world, but it is thought that attempts to take advantage of the market have led to behavioural stress.

Two British scientists, Stewart Owen and David McKenzie from Birmingham University, who have been allocated £48,000 of the grant, will be among a team travelling to an experimental plant near Milan for a year of research. Dr Owen, 28, a psychologist, said: "Eels have become a real delicacy in Europe, Japan and China, but they are about six times more expensive than salmon.

"Not enough are caught to keep up with demand, so eel farming has become an expanding industry across Europe." Farms raise the eels to market size in large recirculating water systems.

"The carbon dioxide produced by the growing fish dissolves in the water and increases its acidity, causing respiratory problems and behavioural stresses which reduce productivity. The eels simply use up all of their energy and sink to the bottom of the tank. I will be looking at the behaviour of the eels and what happens when there is less carbon dioxide in the tanks."

The mysteries of modern technology.



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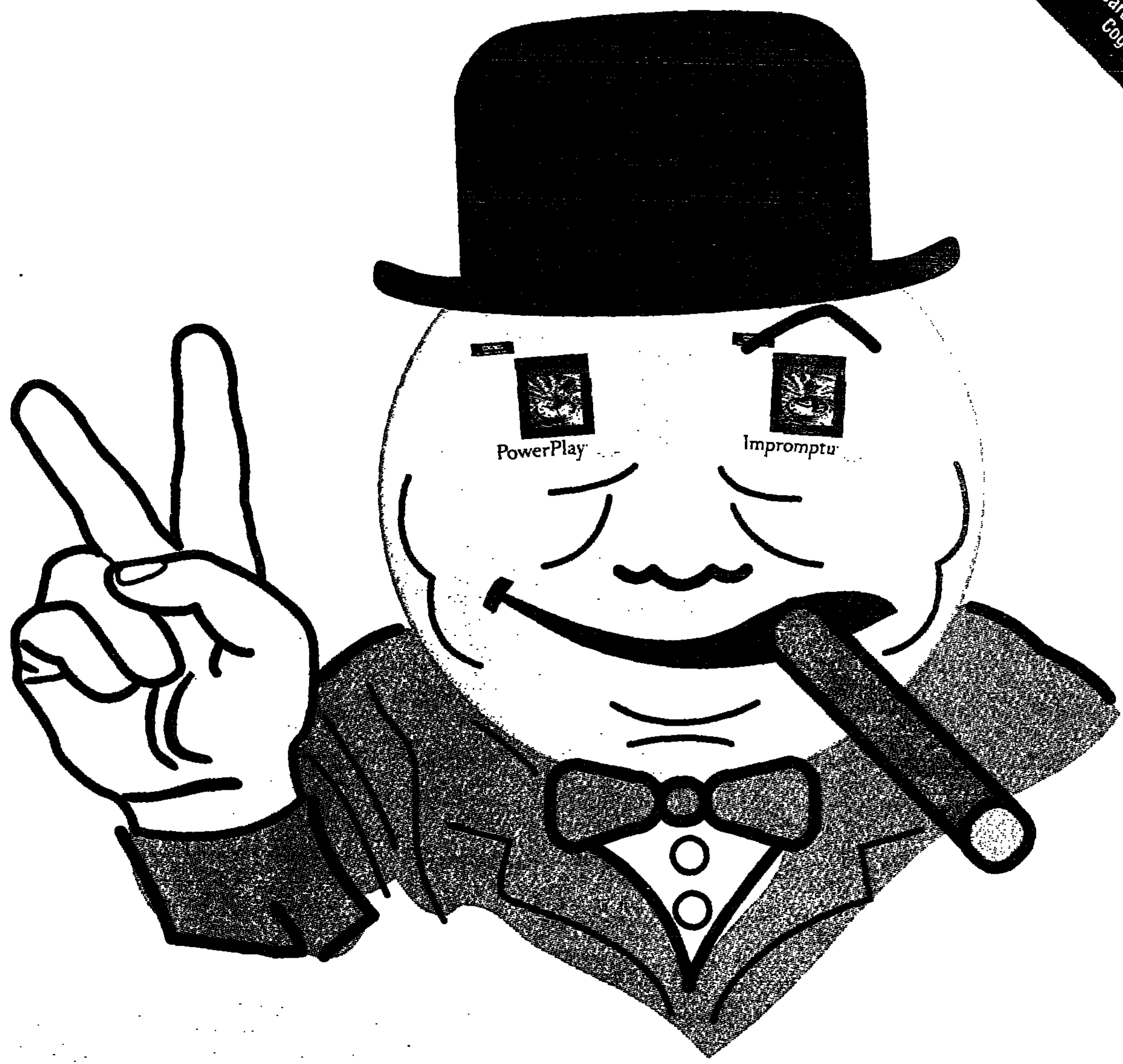

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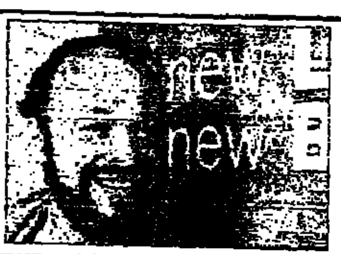
ELECTION 97

POLL DAY -10



'Anonymous' gives his verdict on the Blair campaign

'Primary Colors' author on the hustings

Quentin Letts - page 10

'Suddenly everyone is talking about life after the election'

Nicholas Wapshott - page 10

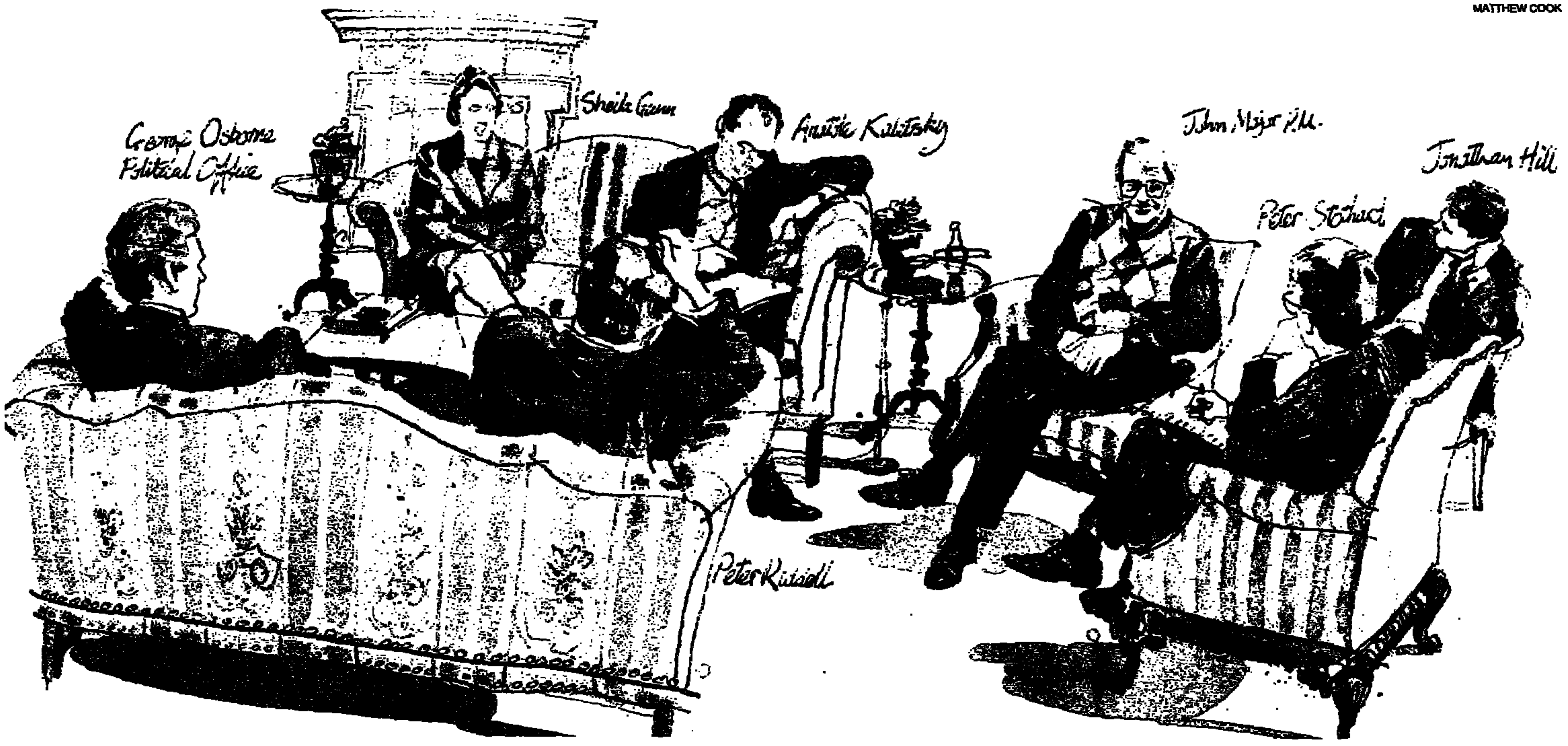
Inside Labour's secret nerve centre

Details - page 11

Major looks to his place in history

The Times, continuing its interviews with party leaders, talks to the Prime Minister

MATTHEW COOK



By Peter Stothard

"I have not had any experience of leading a party in opposition," says the Prime Minister to Peter Riddell at the start of our interview in Downing Street on Saturday morning. But, if a Labour government were to try to take Britain into a single European currency, "I would probably allow backbenchers a free vote."

We have barely settled ourselves into the White Drawing Room's armchairs. I have only just noted John Major's diamond-patterned sweater and the sharp spring light through the casements that illuminate this comfortable, familiar person of government. The very words "in opposition" suddenly make it all seem different.

Major is carefully answering Riddell's question about the Conservative Party's chronic disunity. He is quiet, confident and only occasionally tense. But it is hard to concentrate on what he is saying. My thoughts swim out and past the man who is sitting in front of us and forward into future questions that most of us have yet fully to confront.

What would a Tory free vote in opposition mean? Would Major really be the man who granted it? Would Tory leadership challengers Michael Portillo or Michael Howard match the pledge? Or would they risk a split in the party by insisting on a united Conservative front to save sterling? Surely a free vote would make it easier for Tony Blair to take Britain into EMU, relying on opposition disarray and an extra 50 or more Tory votes on top of his own?

The Prime Minister is already warning us about such speculation. "I would probably allow backbenchers a free vote and, before this is subjected to hieroglyphic textual analysis, I say 'probably' because that is my inclination," he says with one of his unendearing smiles. But speculation is impossible to avoid. Major is to look a long way back in the next hour of conversation, reassessing his record, seeing his successes and mistakes, placing himself in Tory history and opening up new avenues of thought about what will happen next.

Riddell presses the question of a future free vote on EMU once again. Even if Major is not to be the Tory leader, he can certainly now set the opening terms for his successor. "I would discuss it with the Shadow Cabinet," he says, "but on an issue like this, the like of which we have not seen before, I don't think that it is an imposable whip." His thumb quivers rapidly as he speaks, as though such decisions of opposition are as unimaginable as the whip would be unimposable. This is a Prime Minister who, like his party, is only half-prepared for defeat.

Major denies that he feels personally isolated by the defections from party policy of so many MPs over the past week. He persists in his protestations that they are unwise, wrong and may yet return to his path after the election. But what does the man who has been negotiating for Britain really feel now about monetary union? No one knows. The proud mask of the negotiator has obscured the truth from everyone. Our columnist, Anatole Kaletsky, pushes at this notoriously resistant disguise to seek an answer.

"If you want to know the gut instinct that is in here," Major replies, "it is that I would like Europe to work ... but that their economic policies are wrong ... and that our partners are pushing the national patience in more than one country to such an extent that they may end up weakening their institutions." This answer, which in its original form is at considerable and informative length, is still unsatisfactory on the question of the Prime Minister's own instincts about the future.

He is clear enough about the precipitate judgment of those Conservative colleagues who have abandoned his policy of "negotiate and decide". He suggests that their resistance is merely polling-day deep: "They are facing an election and they are setting out what their instincts are." He refuses to admit that they form a new straitjacket around the Tory leadership: "If I had been worried about straitjackets over the past ten years, I would probably have been carried away in one." The flapping white coats, as we recall, were reserved for his opponents.

But what about his own verdict for or against, or even some sort of interim verdict? "What I will do is what I happen to think is in the best interests of the country. It may not actually be what my innate instinct might be. I don't know what judgment I am going to reach. A world exists out there that intrudes into the cosy consensus that politicians may have."

This remark is addressed at all of us. But just as his interviewers have been looking, inevitably, beyond him to the problems of the next Tory leader, so the Prime Minister seems to be speaking less to us than to the next occupant of the drawing room in which we sit. He is about to offer Blair an extraordinary opportunity for private lessons in the art of dealing with the devious Europeans who want to do Britain down.

He emphasises first that it is not the principle of closer European integration that he opposes but the policies, and particularly the people, which go with it. "If you say something that isn't approved by the Commission or hasn't previously been agreed by some of the large countries, it is like spitting in church. I am sick and tired of the fact that I spit out the truth in politics every time I go to Europe and all I get repeated back here from them, with careful leaks from the Commission, is poor old Britain, isolated again."

This continuous pressure comes, he says, from "an institution that is creaking, going in the wrong direction, pushing the national states too far and will break up if it carries on as it is going". Riddell asks him how long he has been so sick and tired of it all. "My views of Europe", he says, "have changed with the experience of sitting round the European table. It is impossible to sit round the table and not be cynical about the way in which business is conducted. And I resent that."

Was it Maastricht that created this cynicism? "No, no, no," he says, chopping downwards through the air with his hand as though some faithless French bureaucrat were beneath his axe. "It was post-Maastricht. You reach a perfectly agreeable agreement. You find some Commission official out there briefing. You find your partner saying one thing at the meeting and another outside. You sit at a meeting. You argue the case alone and then you find some of your fellow politicians coming up to you afterwards and saying that was exactly right. And you say to them, why didn't you say anything yourself? And they say, blur, blur, blur.

"We have a robust political system here. It is not an artificial stitch-up in a back room which is what you get with so many of the continental politicians. Take the working-time directive. I thought I had guarded against that coming out of the social chapter. And what did those so-and-sos do? They brought it forward under Health and Safety."

The passion in these words is palpable even in the pale calm of this Saturday spring morning. Major has stopped chopping heads and is unscrewing the top of his Highland Spring water as though he were wringing some Belgian's neck. Then he screws the top tightly back as if to make sure that the man is dead. "If Tony Blair were Prime Minister and he asked my advice about how to handle European negotiations, he could have it — and in complete privacy and frankness. He could be absolutely certain that I would tell him what the positions of the others were."

We ask if he thinks that Blair might take his offer up. He says that he doesn't know him well enough to judge: "We are different types of people." We ask him what he means by that. "Well, I don't see Tony sitting all day at a cricket match with his feet up. He has other interests."

Kaletsky suggests that he could easily see Blair asking for his predecessor's advice. Major seems almost to be looking forward to the prospect. "But they wouldn't be the only things I would tell him. I have just scratched the surface of what I have learnt over the past few years about Europe. These things are more important than party politics."

Kaletsky then tries to return the conversation to what Major would want to achieve in these future negotiations whose details he insists on keeping secret — from everybody except his successor. If you were Prime Minister, would you try to bring in new safeguards for Britain in EMU? "I have always kept the option open," he stalls. "But I do dismiss the option flatly and absolutely unequivocally of any concept of losing control of fiscal policy.

"If you don't control your own taxation — and I'm talking about income taxation, that is a matter that infringes upon ... [his voice fades way before it is clear what precisely it infringes upon] ... Parliament is based on the granting of supply; it is the very essence of parliament."

Major seems to have no objection in principle to Britain giving up its power to issue or to regulate its money. The Eurosceptics of his party may enjoy the rough rhetoric in this interview; but in the substance of our talk only "income taxation", not value-added tax, corporation tax or duties, was kept as an essence of British self-government.

As the level of his Highland Spring water marks the passage of our interviewing time, a gap between Major the frustrated negotiator and Major the frustrated campaigner grows ever more apparent. This is the gap at the very heart of the Prime Minister's European problem in this election.

Major the campaigner makes a fierce defence of the Blair-as-Kohl's-dummy poster. "Politics has become so pompous, Peter," he says to Riddell, recalling some of the hard ways that he himself has been portrayed over the years. "There is a rough-and-tumble about politics that is part of its charm. Mockery is a legitimate political weapon and has been since the dawn of time." He turns to me to criticise that morning's *Times* front page, which leads on Lord Howe's criticism of the poster. "I think politics is fun as well as important. I am astonished that a letter from Geoffrey Howe should have receieved such massive coverage in such a world-famous newspaper as *The Times*."

Major the negotiator takes a rather different view of political caricature and the requirement for simple black-and-white ideas and images. "I have been Prime Minister for six and a half years and how many people out there really understand what I know about Europe? You may say it is my failure. I long for the capacity to have these big issues crystallised in a straightforward way that does not mislead the public. In crystallising it, you so often trivialise it."

To crystallise or not to crystallise? To put Blair on Kohl's knee or not to make a dummy of the man who could be leading Britain after May 1? To trivialise or not to trivialise? Major tells us that it is the job of the politician "to remove the fears of the electorate, not to play to them": and then he plays to them and justifies his tactic by his failure (and the media's failure) to get his message across in any other way.

Major is in the last days of a dilemma. It is a dilemma that has been central to our understanding of him and even, perhaps, to his understanding of himself.

Like all politicians approaching the end of office, he looks to his place in the line of his predecessors. When Riddell asks him why the European issue came up so suddenly in the campaign and why he made his dramatic party election broadcast last week, he borrowed both the words and the sonorities of Harold Macmillan: "Events, dear boy, events." He cites the same inspiration when he explains why he rejected the pure Euroscepticism to which his personal frustration and pressure from press and colleagues could easily have driven him. "There is what Harold Macmillan once memorably called A Middle Way."

He evokes, too, the spirit of Disraeli, Neville Chamberlain ("a great social reformer in the 1920s") and Iain Macleod ("the people who brought me into politics"). He explains his love of the welfare state both in terms of the party's history and his own. The dominant achievment of the past five years is, he says, an economy that is strong enough to allow the reforms of health and welfare that need to be made. He even praises the British electorate for rising above purely economic preferences in their political choices: "a rather attractive posture by the voters", he calls it.

He certainly does not want to walk away from the opportunity to spend the results of his anti-inflationary labours. Although he praises Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke for their courage, he sees the achievement of low inflation as essentially his own, the top item in the ledger of his achievements.

Will he have no option but to walk away? He confesses that he is baffled by the opinion polls. He finds so much "warm support" around the country, but admits that he may be being misled by "the innate politeness of the British nation".

He does not mention Margaret Thatcher in our interview. He evokes her only once, when he is talking about how he feels in this difficult and depressing election campaign for Conservatives. "Yes, I am enjoying myself at the moment," he says. An image came swooping down to us of Mrs Thatcher, on the day that she announced her resignation as Prime Minister, telling Dennis Skinner how much she too was enjoying herself.

As we leave, Major turns to the troubles of Surrey County Cricket Club, the problems of success in having so many star players, the dangers of failing if they all play for national sides this season rather than their county, his pleasure in Mark Butcher's century for England A. He leans forward to make cover drives across the carpet. The White Drawing Room is a temporary sight-screen as well as a temporary home.

Bring back school cane, say rebel Tory candidates

By Valerie Elliott

TEN Tory candidates in Wales last night delivered a short, sharp message to the Prime Minister: bring back the cane. They said that corporal punishment should be restored in schools as a last resort.

The candidates believe that the traditional values held in Welsh farming and valley communities would make the policy a vote-winner. One of them, the Rev Felix Aubel, a Welsh-speaking Congregational minister and Tory candidate for Ceredigion, west Wales, has included his belief in the cane in his election address.

He said last night: "There are strong links with the chapels and Nonconformism in Wales and in these communities traditional values such as good discipline are strong." Dr Aubel, 36, a bachelor and huntsman, who was caned several times at his school at Rhydyfelin in Pontypridd, South Wales, said that he believed the cane should be used for serious discipline problems such as theft, assault and insubordination.

The advocates of the cane make up a quarter of Welsh Tory candidates and their stance threatens to revive the row last autumn when Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, suggested that corporal punishment could be restored if teachers and governors demanded it. Mr Major immediately made clear that this was not the government view.

David Davies, 25, a candidate in Bridgend, said last week that if elected he would bring forward a Private Member's Bill. "The cane should be used sparingly as a deterrent," he said. "I have seen it working in places like Singapore, where there is a zero crime rate. We should be looking at their regime, not just on how to deal with unruly pupils but also for muggers and other criminals."

Robert Buckland, 28, a barrister fighting the new seat of Preseli Pembrokeshire, said: "We are a humane and compassionate people, but we are not frightened to exert reasonable punishment."

TUESDAY 10p TIMES
SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2
OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

Primary Colors writer turns on Blair's 'faded rhetoric and magisterial vacuity'

'Anonymous' reveals his true feelings

Quentin Letts tells how the American media's disenchantment with the Clinton White House is spilling over on to the Labour Party

CHRIS HARRIS

Joe Klein, political writer on The New Yorker and a supposed ally of the Blair camp, visits Kidsgove while on the campaign trail with Labour

TONY BLAIR was riddled by a burst of political friendly fire yesterday. *The New Yorker* magazine, supposedly an admirer, ripped into his "magisterial vacuity", "ostentatious modesty" and his laughable "antic eagerness".

Such was Mr Blair's desire to sell himself to the British electorate, the magazine said, that he resembled "the ultimate sales clerk anxiously peddling toaster ovens".

The words came from Joe Klein, a political writer for the Manhattan weekly. Earlier this month Mr Klein was the sole foreign correspondent granted access to the Blair campaign bus as it toured Britain. The Labour Party's image fixers were serenely confident that the morose but apparently sympathetic American writer and his British expatriate editor, Tina Brown, would fluff up another of their helpful, pro-Blair soufflés.

Instead the article, which appears in this week's issue, is a deft hatchet job posing as an analysis of Mr Blair's "enormous appeal". It concludes that Mr Blair is interested in little more than winning the election, something that, "as Bill Clinton has amply demonstrated, . . . does not necessarily count for very much at all".

Mr Klein earned notoriety (and several million dollars) last year as "Anonymous", the author of the quasi-biographical *Primary Colors*, which betrayed the oozing libidinousness and cynicism of Mr Clinton and his cronies. With Mr Blair you must subtract the sex, conceded Mr Klein, but in other respects there are depressing similarities.

He accused the Labour leader of "tiptoeing across the political landscape, taking no chances", but noted: "Avoiding risk can itself be a risk, and the very insubstantiality of his offer might well come back to haunt him." Mr Blair uttered "a cascade of non-promises and miniature proposals", held together by "faded and threadbare" rhetoric. After hearing Mr Blair on the campaign trail in a genteel quarter of Staffordshire, Mr Klein complained that his programme was "a knock-off of familiar new Democrat focus-group themes, especially the weary trinity of opportunity, responsibility and community".

He added: "Watching Tony Blair lope along the same course, and recreate the Clintonian vision of a society in which baby boomers could feel socially responsible and still afford designer labels, one had to wonder what, finally, the new Democrat and new Labour movements were substantively all about — except, obviously, the successful pursuit of power . . . new Labour may be little more than a humane rhetorical mirage that technocrats like Tony Blair have created to prove to themselves that they haven't become middle-aged conservatives."

The tightly argued article was illustrated by a cartoon showing Mr Clinton staring into a full-length mirror. The reflection? A big-eared Mr Blair, complete with the "terrifying grin", which, as Mr Klein commented, bears a horrible similarity to that worn by the Joker in *Batman*.

The attack from a presumed ally will disappoint Mr Blair and company, particularly those of his aides who so aspire to the elegant liberalism of *The New Yorker* and its rich, "radical chic" readers. But the initial damage will be over the Atlantic, where Mr Blair's media coverage has until now been only obliging.

It comes just as America's generally left-of-centre "media elite" is falling bitterly out of love with the Clinton White House, disenchanted by the First Couple's spotty record on ethics and their opportunistic lurch to the centre. Last week Robert Reich, Mr Clinton's former Labour Secretary, published a volume of diaries from the first term of the Clinton presidency which described the eclipse of the Left. Similarly, Mr Klein took note that "Blair is far more eloquent and convincing when he is separating himself from the "old Left" than he is when he is distinguishing himself from the "new Right".

The attack may also reduce the feverish speculation in Westminster, Islington and mid-town Manhattan that Miss Brown, who is arguably the most influential Briton in the United States, will soon return to London to take a political job.

It has been said that she covets the job of Arts Minister in a Blair administration and will be elevated to the Upper House. She has consistently denied such talk, as has her publisher husband, Harold Evans, who has organised Labour Party fundraising events in New York for British expatriates. Those denials now become a little more convincing.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NEW YORKER

"Blair stood at a white lectern in the middle of the room, surrounded by about 300 middle-aged, middle-class, middle Britons. If Blair's cascade of non-promises and miniature proposals seemed refreshingly candid to his audiences, the rhetorical fabric that held it together was faded and threadbare. It was a knock-off of familiar new Democrat focus-group themes. Blair said he would devote himself to families that 'work hard' and 'play by the rules'. He promised a 'third way' between 'the old Left and the new Right'. He said that the election was a choice between 'hope' and 'fear'."

"Most political cartoonists draw him as a flimsy character with a terrifying grin, reminiscent of the Joker in the movie version of *Batman*, and there is some truth in that. If Bill Clinton is the ultimate salesman, the sort of man you *would* buy a used car from, Blair at times seems the ultimate sales clerk anxiously peddling toaster ovens."

"He has taken positions that would have been unthinkable for Labour in the past: against an increase in the income tax: in favour of privatising some government services. And that, no doubt, is what Blair considers radical about his centrism: it is a violent departure from past dogma. But it is centrism all the same, very much a ratification of the British status quo."

Two-tier NHS will end, says Smith

By Jill Sherman

LABOUR promised yesterday to end "the two-tier system in the health service" by October 1 by preventing patients registered with GP fundholders from jumping waiting lists.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said a Labour government would be determined to ensure that patients were treated according to need rather than whether their GP was a fundholder. Hospitals would be asked to draw up common waiting lists so that patients of fundholders would take their turn.

The pledge came as Labour disclosed that NHS waiting lists were at an all-time high, with 1.1 million people seeking treatment and, announced a five-point programme to tackle the problem. Patients whose operations had been scheduled would not be affected, but those seeing GP fundholders after October 1 would have no guarantee that they will be treated more quickly.

The party is committed to phasing out fundholding, one of the key elements of the Tories' NHS reforms, and introducing a new system of locality commissioning. Fundholders would lose their budgets within two to three years but Mr Smith wants some changes sooner.

In a letter toAlan Langlands, head of the NHS Executive, he says the first step is to halt any further applications to join GP fundholding. "I must insist that we put an end to any element of a two-tier approach as soon as it is practically possible and no later then 1, October 1997."

Mr Smith also proposes appointing a "bureaucracy buster" to generate at least £100 million from administrative savings to treat 100,000 more patients. He said yesterday: "I want fewer people in the NHS pushing bits of paper around. I want more people on wards treating patients."

First-time voters favour Labour

MORE than half of five million first-time voters support Labour, according to a poll published yesterday.

In the nationwide MORI poll of voters aged between 18 and 23 for *Thatcher's Children*, to be shown on Channel 4 on Thursday, 56 per cent said they would vote Labour. The Tories were supported by 23 per cent and the Liberal Democrats by 11 per cent.

The Green Party, Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru received 4 per cent each. Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party attracted support from 2 per cent.

Asked who would make the best prime minister, John Major scored 22 per cent, Tony Blair 43 per cent and Paddy Ashdown 8 per cent.

The most important issue, for 65 per cent, was education; 54 per cent wanted more jobs and 50 per cent better health care. More than 20 per cent said that training was important to them.

☐ *MORI interviewed 539 adults at 41 constituency points between March 24 and April 5.*

Confusion as Tony Ashdown gets grilled by Peter Frost

Trying to think a really long way ahead — like a few weeks — confuses politicians so much they forget who they're talking to, writes **Nicholas Wapshott**

And suddenly, it seemed, everyone was talking about life after the election. Paddy Ashdown started it on *Breakfast with Frost* when asked how the world would look in 18 years' time to Paddy's new half-French grandson Mathias, born last week.

"We're only used to looking four years ahead at a time," said Ashdown, showing that when politicians talk of vision they mean at best the very short term.

But he went on to paint a world where Labour had become the natural party of government, the Tories had committed *hara-kiri* over Europe and the Liberal Democrats were sitting pretty to become the natural party of opposition. This gazing into the near distance suited Paddy well.

He had left his daughter's bedside to make the Frost interview because he needed to declare a change in the focus of his party's efforts and the Frost programme is the best place, short of a party election broadcast, for making such an announcement without fear of hostile questioning.

The time had come for one-nation conservatives to come across to the LibDems, he said. If they are depressed at the prospect of the Tory civil war after the election defeat, then, like Emma Nicholson, why not come across now to the Liberals, the party of Disraeli and Macmillan. The message was buried a bit, to be sure, and everyone got muddled at one stage, with Ashdown calling Frost "Peter", and Frost, quick-footed as ever, calling him "Tony" in return, but it is still difficult to see why the bulletin at the end quoted Ashdown as saying the government were rubbish, which was hardly new, and ignored his change of tack.

At lunchtime the BBC laid on an unpromising debate on the economy starring Labour's Margaret Beckett, the Liberals' Malcolm Bruce and the Chancellor and prospective Tory leader Kenneth Clarke. The ding-dong went round in circles, as usual, but the show provided the best parade ring so far for Clarke to show his good teeth, his strong back legs and his punishing kick.

It is not difficult to see why Labour dread Clarke's replacing Major. Beyond the laudably unkempt hair, the good suit hurled over the ample frame and the unfashionable embrace of the European ideal, here is a true television star.

Unlike the automatons who scrabble for rote-learned soundbites laid down in spin doctors' manuals, Clarke speaks politics like a human being. He takes time to smile, he relishes a spat, he despises mouthing a written brief and he has an admirable disdain for going off the record. But with the Eurosceptic tide coming in quickly, Clarke is all but written off.

On ITV, Tony Blair was being questioned in the second half of the series of paired programmes in which the Brothers Dimbleby are given the chance to compare their differing talents first on the party leaders and then on the election night results programmes. Once the brothers were so similar they might be thought of as Dimblehum and Dimblebee, but on Panorama brother David introduced an unlikely savage edge, grilling Blair in a blackened Mastermind studio.

Brother Jonathan, burdened with a studio audience, charged head first into Europe, the minimum wage and taxes, but Blair remained comfortable throughout.

I have been wondering for some time where I have seen so often the unmistakable trademark visage of eternal grin, jug ears, distracted hair and chipped front tooth which has become the Labour leader's face for the nation. And deep in my adolescent memory I have found those grinning features: Alfred E Neumann, the mascot of Mad magazine. And since the Tories crashed last week, his motto fits, too: "What, me worry?"

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Broadcast invokes Elgar to undermine the Tories

By Jill Sherman

LABOUR tonight uses *Land of Hope and Glory* in its party election broadcast, which warns voters of the dangers of a fifth Conservative term. The patriotic song, which the Conservatives have often used as a theme tune, is used in ironic counterpoint to images of the ills of Tory Britain.

Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* march No. 1 runs throughout the party broadcast, which begins with pictures from last year's Tory party conference of the jingoistic waving of Union Jacks, and grinning Cabinet ministers. The film is intercut with pictures of patients on trolleys in hospital corridors; elderly residents in a nursing home; vandalism and juvenile crime; and packed classrooms.

Across the images are stark written messages: "50,000 fewer nurses . . The Tories are pulling the NHS apart. The Tories will sell off old people's homes . . . Crime has doubled under the Tories." The broadcast declares that if the Tories are re-elected they will do as they please. "No one could stop them."

The camera cuts to the Brighton Conference Centre and then a sandcastle on the beach with a Union Jack in a turret. As the music fades, the waves wash over the sandcastle and topple the flag, which disappears out to sea.

The broadcast aims to portray Conservatives as smug, complacent and convinced that they have a "divine right" to power, Labour sources say. "It conveys the message that this Tory government is failing its people — in direct contrast to the theme music."

Yesterday it emerged that Labour has decided to switch its colours from traditional red to "passionate purple" for the last week of the general election campaign. Purple is to be the dominant colour on posters to be unveiled this Thursday. The party will hoist purple balloons, give out purple leaflets, appear against purple backdrops and wear purple hats.

Peter Mandelson, the party's campaign manager, says that purple illustrates the party's passion to improve the health service and education and to combat crime.

Purple is probably more often associated with Roman emperors, Popes, and prelates, not to mention 1970s loon pants and maxi-skirts.

Party sources insist that purple is not going to replace red, but will "compete with it." There will be red on purple and purple on red, each vying for centre stage.

But traditionalists may be alarmed at what they see is another departure from the party's old values. Red has been the international symbol of the Left since the 19th century, and Labour's colour since the party was set up.

Paddy Ashdown will claim tomorrow that the Liberal Democrats are the party of true patriotism, in a speech comparing his aspirations for Britain with the policies of Churchill in the 1930s. The speech, to Liberal Democrat supporters at a rally in Eastleigh, Hampshire, follows attempts by both of the other main parties to play the patriotic card. However, Liberal Democrat sources insisted that Mr Ashdown had always intended to make a speech on patriotism during the election campaign. Mr Ashdown has evoked Churchill once before, in a speech to his party conference in Brighton last September.

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Inside Labour's campaign HQ: how the party's formidable election-fighting machine operates

The Millbank Tendency

AT 1am each *morning* a single touch to a computer keyboard *on the first floor* of a modern building facing the Thames a *few hundred* yards *from* the Houses of Parliament sends a *daily briefing to the* fax machines of every one of the 639 Labour candidates fighting the general election.

Labour's campaign headquarters in Millbank Tower is the most sophisticated, efficient and authoritarian election-fighting *machine* ever used in Britain. And it is likely to change *the* way *that* elections will be fought in this country.

The "Daily Brief" outlines the topic of the day that will be unveiled at Labour's morning news conference, details of any stories that are breaking in that morning's national newspapers, Labour's line on them and any other clarifications of official party policy.

During the day the Policy and Administration Unit will update the candidate by fax, mobile telephone or message pager with developments from the news conference, any changes in party lines, and areas where the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have become vulnerable.

Further, the Key Campaigns Task Force will ensure that all candidates, especially those fighting the 100 most winnable seats, receive daily direction on their personal campaign as well as help with focusing on the issues that will determine the result their constituency.

Robin Cook, out campaigning in North Shields, was asked by the BBC to comment on Dame Angela Rumbold's latest anti-European gesture. The Shadow Foreign Secretary hesitated. "David. There was no phone call was there?" he asked. His adviser David Mathieson shook his head, pointed to his coat pocket and said: "The phone was on." Mr Cook, unaware yet of any explicit line agreed at Millbank, limited himself to a general comment along the lines of: "The degree of confusion over Europe among Tories would be comic if it wasn't these people who pretend to govern Britain."

The untold story of the 1997 campaign is of how one party is fighting with techniques learned from Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign headquarters while the other has progressed little beyond relying on the helping hand of the local party faithful, more at home organising tea and jam parties.

Conservative Central Office, in Smith Square, would argue that it is as effective as Millbank Tower in fighting a national campaign. From the candidate's point of view there is a stark difference.

A small team in Central Office is in charge of sending *national* press releases and transcripts of press conferences *by fax or e-mail to* local constituency associations. Other than that, Conservative candidates are on their own from the start of the election campaign until polling day, fighting a lone war with the help only of their constituency associations.

Labour is secretly proud of its machine, but secret it knows it must be. "You must be the 120th organisation to ask to go onto the first floor," said David Hill, Labour's press chief, answering a request from *The Times* to see what goes on beyond the ground floor briefing room. "And nobody is going up there at any time for any reason."

During the election campaign, *Times* reporters have been talking to candidates, party workers, and some of the paid staff and volunteers who man the first floor of Millbank Tower to tell the story of how Labour is dictating the 1997 election campaign.

THE BUILDING

Millbank Tower *is built on* land owned by the Queen. In *December 1995 the Labour* Party took a two-year lease for £586,000 from the leaseholders, Legal & General, with options until *2002 — the last* possible date for the next general election.

The party has use of the ground and second floors of the 30-storey 1960s Grade II listed bulding. At 8.30am each day scores of journalists fill the 240-seat ground-floor auditorium for the morning press conference. All must be accredited and pass through a metal detector.

The party gears up for its own press conference with a 7.30am meeting of key staff in the first-floor War Room chaired by Gordon Brown. *It* reviews any changes necessary to the party's "line of the day" depending on develop*ments on the late-night polit*ical programmes such as *Newsnight and the morning* national newspapers.

Entry from the ground floor to the first floor is controlled *through one door by a "prox*imity swipe card" bearing the *holder's name and picture.*

☐ **The first floor:** "Corporate bland" *decor has been chosen* and the office filled with *telephones and personal com*puters. The little space left *between the desks is taken by* jotters propped on easels, *where the strategists plot their* latest moves using giant blue and red markers. *There are* dozens of reference books, many of them biographies and autobiographies, well-thumbed for facts useful to harm Labour's opponents. Between the wallcharts and maps, Mr Blair smiles down from pin-up portraits.

THE PEOPLE

The Millbank tendency is crammed with recent graduates on short contracts. Nearly all were involved with Labour's student wing or the National Union of Students. *Most have* been lobbyists or parliamentary researchers at Westminster. Aides to senior figures such as Gordon Brown, Jack Straw, Tessa Jowell and Alun Michael have moved to Millbank for the campaign.

Fiercely loyal to Tony Blair and new Labour, they work 13 *hours a day for little reward.* Because most of their con*tracts expire on* May 2, they are anxious to secure one of the few full-time jobs likely to be available if Labour gets into government. "Everybody is *working like a dog* and *is* petrified of screwing up," one *young Millbank staffer* said. "Most of us were researchers *for frontbenchers* and we know that if we win, our jobs *will go to civil servants. I need* to impress if I want to stay on *board."*

☐ **The veterans:** experienced *full-time staff on their second* or third general election. *Many are policy workers from* the parliamentary party or *from Labour's headquarters* in Walworth Road. Used to *false dawns, they maintain* a calm atmosphere with none of *the rivalry of their juniors.*

☐ **Reflections Group:** Mr Mandelson's *personal* advisers, dubbed "Peter's Friends".

☐ **BMP:** Labour's advertising agency.

☐ **The bosses:** no one has dared coin a nickname for those who control the day-to-day operation and dominate the centre of the room: Mandelson; Tony Blair's spokesman, Alastair Campbell; the party's pollster, Philip Gould; and the chief media spokesman, David Hill.

☐ **Media Monitoring Unit:** on a bank of televisions, staff watch all interviews, supplying the media with instant transcripts of damaging quotations from the Government. Labour candidates are also monitored and can be instantly swatted for gaffes.

☐ **Key Campaigns Task Force:** monitors support in *the target marginals — the 100* mostly Tory-held seats that Labour needs to win to secure a majority — by telephone and door-to-door canvassing.

☐ **Attack and Rebuttal Unit:** in control of Excalibur, a vast *computer* database of press clippings, speech texts and policy *documents, the main*stay of the party's rapid rebuttal system.

☐ **Anchors:** mostly Commons researchers who act as the link between Millbank and the "key campaigners", as roving Shadow Cabinet members have been codenamed.

☐ **Audience Participation Unit:** accused of manipulating radio phone-ins, television debates and newspaper letters columns by getting Labour members to put the party's viewpoint while posing as ordinary voters. Blamed for trying to rig the BBC Radio 4 *Today* Personality of the Year for Mr Blair.

☐ **Press officers:** "Speed is of the essence," says David Hill, "because we are fighting by far the most sophisticated media election ever. Without *that speed we would not be the* effective body we are because *the news agenda moves so* fast."

☐ **Technology:** during the last election, it was impossible to get a telephone line out of Walworth Road at busy times. Now most candidates have pagers, mobile phones and bedside fax machines. Many have home computers to receive e-mail updates. There are 60 pagers in the war room. Sensitive to accusations of Orwellian control, Mr Hill has told Millbank staff to *"downspin" the* gadgetry when talking to outsiders.

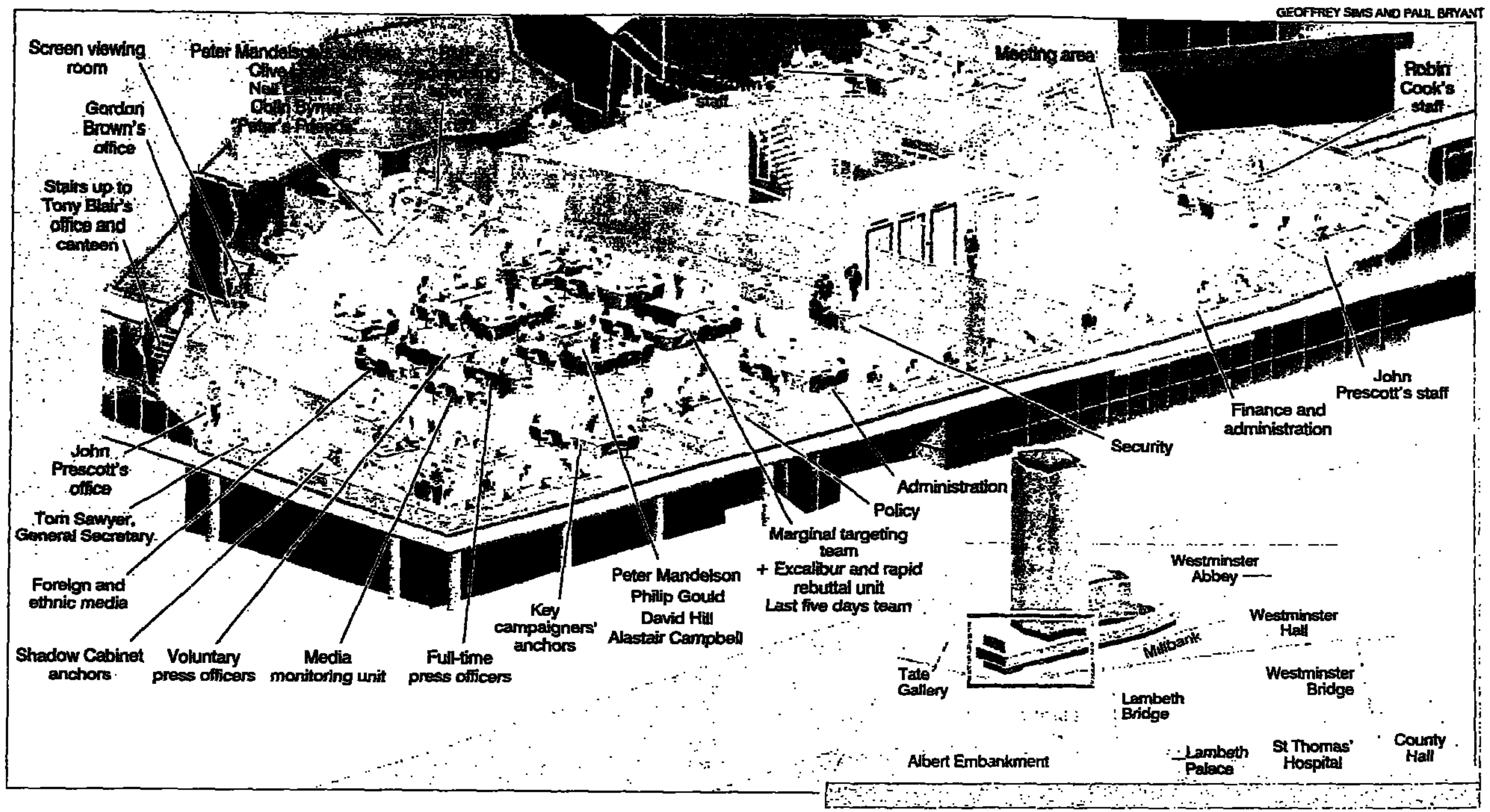
☐ ***International and ethnic* media:** liaises with foreign *press, black newspapers such* as *The Voice* and Asian broadcasters such as Zee TV.

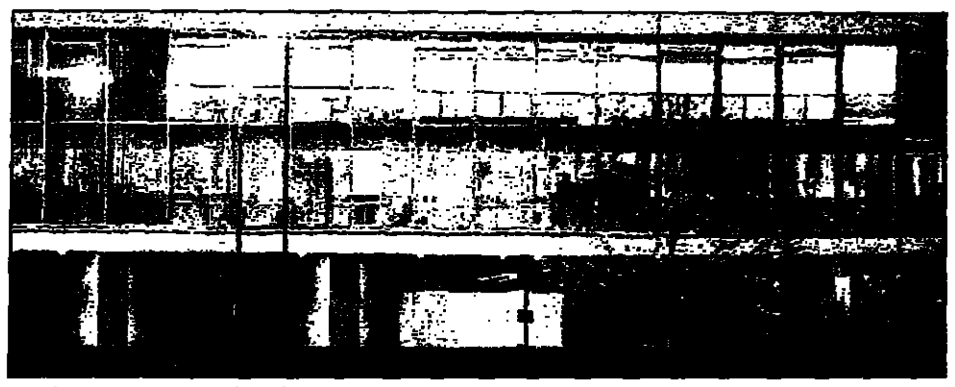
☐ **The pointy heads:** Gordon *Brown's* economics and Shadow Treasury advisers, Charlie Whelan and Ed Balls.

☐ **Last Five Days Unit:** the apocalyptically named team believed to hold the secrets of the final blitz to bring Labour to power.

☐ **Tango Bravo:** aka Tony Blair. *Has his office on the* second floor, and will move into Millbank permanently after the election when the entire party operation is shifted from John Smith House in Walworth Road in the rundown Elephant and Castle district of south London.

GEOFFREY SIMS AND PAUL BRYANT





Labour's campaign headquarters at Millbank Tower — the building that never sleeps

Labour's candidate in the Tory marginal of Exeter leaned across the pub table at lunch, and asked why I thought Conservative Central Office were advising their candidate, Dr Adrian Rogers, to stick to his notoriously anti-homosexual line during this campaign.

I assured him that Central Office would have had no part in it. Candidates organise their own campaigns.

Mr Ben Bradshaw [the Labour candidate] seemed surprised. He had assumed that whatever a parliamentary candidate said or did would be with the approval, or on the instructions, of his party headquarters. It had simply not struck him that other parties might be different.

Matthew Parris

THE DAILY ROUTINE

Millbank is a 24-hour operation.

1am: The uniform "Daily Brief" containing the officially sanctioned issues of the day is fired electronically at every candidate throughout Britain.

1am-5am: A *skeleton staff remains thoughout the quiet* hours of the night, manning the press desk, updating policy and *monitoring* late broadcasts.

6am: The day swings into life.

7am: Gordon Brown chairs the War Room group to review the morning's press coverage and set the agenda.

8.30am: press conference.

11am: Mr Brown's group meets again to review events.

1pm: Pace quickens as lunchtime news bulletins are monitored, recorded and rebutted.

3pm: Meeting to discuss the medium term.

7pm: War Room group reviews focus groups and private polls.

9pm-11.30pm: Late burst of activity as evening news bulletins are scrutinised and "spun".

Hartlepool cheers its king of spin

BY RICHARD FORD

PETER MANDELSON had only been in his Hartlepool campaign headquarters a matter of minutes before he was on his mobile phone, whispering conspiratorially: "Did you hear that package this morning? No it wasn't too bad, I suppose," he muttered. "We will talk later."

First, there were key constituency issues to contend with. *Before he can begin,* however, the phone rings again. "Damian, how are *you?*" he asks. "The important thing," he tells the caller, "is *strong* leadership."

Damian could be *forgiven* for thinking that Mr Mandelson was giving him a lesson in Labour's strategy for victory. But he was discussing matters of greater significance: the local media now had his views on Hartlepool United football team's struggle to avoid relegation. "It is *so important,*" he says.

He was in Hartlepool for a *seven-hour* visit on Saturday after IRA terror attacks forced *him to* abandon plans to arrive on Friday for a night of canvassing. With a majority of 8,700 in 1992 he could spend even less time in the town. But Labour's national campaign director likes to be in his constituency at least once a week.

His national stature brings him easy recognition on the streets. "Hello, the famous spin-doctor," a man calls out. "He is the brains behind the Labour Party," another voter declared.

At the Middleton Grange shopping centre voters point and whisper: "There's Mandelson." The more forthcoming call out: "Hello Peter. How are you? You are look*ing champion.*"

At an old folks' home, Elsie *Atkinson observes:* "*He's lost* a lot of weight. It's all the *bloody* worry of *Hartlepool.* He needs food. The last time *he came here he went out with* fish and chips in the paper."

Mr Mandelson did not overhear her remark. But it was a comment the king of spin would have relished as a sign of his street cred in Hartlepool.

MICHAEL SCOTT

Peter Mandelson: "the brains behind the Labour Party"

Reports by Stephen Farrell, Dominic Kennedy, Mark Henderson and James Landale

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Disciplined old hand McGahey promises Red Dawn for the Scots

Michael Gove reports on familiar scenes as the Scottish TUC celebrates its centenary in Glasgow among old friends and new comrades

THERE can seldom have been clearer evidence of the control that old party hands are capable of than the speech to the Scottish TUC's centenary congress given yesterday by Mick McGahey.

A lifetime in the Communist Party teaches you many things, but above all it inculcates discipline. This was a *study in socialist self-control* of which Vladimir Ilyich would have been proud.

Mr McGahey, a former leader of Scotland's miners and a lifelong Communist, enjoys a distinguished but cramped position in the trade union movement, just to the left of Arthur Scargill.

For new Labour strategists still reeling from a firemen's strike in Essex it would have been hard to conceive of a less attractive photo-opportunity than Mr McGahey addressing hundreds of eccentrically barbered and extravagantly tattooed shop stewards promising Red Dawn on May 2.

They need not have worried in Millbank Tower. Certainly, Mr McGahey tantalised an audience whose every instinct is old Labour. He attacked the "hysteria of certain forces" which had sought to place the STUC in an unflattering light. The brothers were not sure for a second whether it was Ian Lang's or David Blunkett's disobliging comments that had provoked the reaction. Mr McGahey also promised, to tumultuous applause, to "defend the welfare state" begging the question who would be doing the attacking.

But, after the glimpses of the cloven hoof behind the lecturn, Mr McGahey went back to his message. A side swipe at the sleazy Tories — nothing but "political troglodytes" — was followed by a line that will have brought Peter Mandelson to his feet applauding along with the pony-tailed activists. Mr McGahey, with a hint of a smile, exclaimed: "They say we are looking for a pay-off. Well, I'll settle for no favours but fairness."

They say the devil can quote Scripture for his own purposes, but it still gives pause for thought when Scotland's greatest living Marxist approvingly appropriates a Blairite soundbite.

Mr McGahey, determined to do nothing to imperil a Labour victory, had showed the sort of discipline that made the Communist Party the vanguard of struggle on Scotland's shop floors. A moderate demeanour is the radical's best weapon.

The former miners' leader's performance is far from the only evidence of the STUC's radical roots at this congress. The stalls seemed to have been designed by a Saatchi's set designer. From Unity Books, "Scotland's left and progressive bookshop" primarily displaying Engels' *Condition of the English Working Class*, to those offering Che T-shirts, miners' lamps and heroic accounts of the struggle in Cuba, there could not have been a more effective reminder of old Labour's loves.

At one stall, two women discussed their proposed visit to Havana with "Pastors for Peace". In the bar an old hand remarked at the mention of new Labour: "Oh no, I'm no interested in politics any more:that's why I am in new Labour." In the conference hall motions opposing Labour's newest policy, privatisation, attracted enthusiastic support.

The STUC's own anniversary video is in the same deep-red vein. It makes altogether more ambitious claims for the union movement than its sister organisation down South ever would. While the TUC is content to concentrate on workplace rights, the video celebrates the STUC's role in international struggle, feminist struggle and the struggle for a Scottish parliament.

One of the contributors praises the STUC as a "big battalion" on the side of progress. But, as big battalions go, their allegiance is still Red Army rather than New Model.

Lenin: Vladimir Ilyich would have been proud

MIKE WILKINSON SALLY SOAMES

The struggle old and new: Mick McGahey preaching to the Scottish TUC yesterday, left, and addressing its southern sister in Brighton in 1984

Unrepentant Bickerstaffe insists on setting rate for a minimum wage

Philip Bassett reports on Unison's discord with softer Labour line

BRITAIN'S biggest union will today risk provoking Labour anger and fresh Conservative attacks on trade unionism by setting a level for a national minimum wage. The call at the Scottish Trades Union Congress by Rodney Bickerstaffe, of the public services union Unison, will be the first time in the election campaign that a major trade union has spoken out.

Unison, Labour's largest affiliated union, has decided to promote its longstanding policy of a minimum wage set at 50 per cent of male median earnings, even though they know Conservative strategists will exploit it. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, attacked the congress proposals, including the minimum wage, as a "litany of left-wing demands which, if agreed to, would ruin Britain".

Calling on Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Donald Dewar to return money to their sponsoring unions if they disagreed with policies adopted by the congress, he said that it was "clear beyond doubt that the trade unions today are as dangerous as they ever were". Mr Lang added: "The Labour Party and the unions are joined at the hip."

Labour says that it will not set a precise figure for a minimum wage in advance of the election, and will decide on it only after taking advice from employers' and employees' representatives on a new Low Pay Commission. Labour leaders have said any decisions taken by the congress in Glasgow which ran counter to the party's policies would be ignored.

David Blunkett, Shadow Employment and Education Secretary, said that the congress should abandon hopes of influencing a Labour government unless its policies "totally matched" those of Labour. Campbell Christie, the congress general secretary, said yesterday as its conference began that it "obviously regrets any potential government minister indicating that they are not prepared to listen to various points of view before forming policy decisions". John Monks, the TUC leader, made clear that it will continue to push for key union claims, including rights for part-time workers.

Conservatives will also seize on a strong reception at the Glasgow congress yesterday for Ken Cameron, the Fire Brigades Union leader, ahead of a planned second strike today by firefighters in Essex. Mr Cameron urged fresh talks to end the dispute and called on a new Labour government to start building a new way of handling the public sector after May 1.

IN BRIEF

Sinn Fein 'pledged to peace'

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, looked forward yesterday to the election of a new government to help to reconstruct the Northern Ireland peace process. He said that the new government should face up to Sinn Fein, each on its own terms, and put behind it the failures of the past.

Mr Adams, speaking at the party's annual conference, said: "A lasting peace is the prize. The Westminster elections on May 1 are a watershed moment in our history that must be seized. We must send a clear message to the new London government.

"Today I pledge Sinn Fein's commitment to peace and to negotiations and to agreement."

Self confessed

Writer Will Self, sacked by *The Observer* last week, admitted he did snort heroin aboard John Major's campaign jet. He told the *Independent on Sunday*: "So I was smacked out on the Prime Minister's jet — big deal." He insisted he did not behave oddly, and had filed 1,500 words for *The Observer* on time.

ELECTION TRAIL

Conservative: Kenneth Baker, Peter Lilley in South, Stephen Dorrell in North West, Gillian Shephard in North: Lord Archer in North East, Michael Portillo in West; Michael Howard in London. **Labour:** Margaret Beckett in Wales, Donald Dewar in Scotland, Frank Dobson in North East, Clare Short, Michael Meacher in North West, Harriet Harman in Midlands, Chris Smith in North, Jack Straw in the East. **Lib Dems:** Paddy Ashdown in Cornwall, Shirley Williams in South East, Lord Rodgers in East.

On screen: BBC 1 Paddy Ashdown interview, *Panorama* 8.30pm. BBC2 Kenneth Clarke interviewed live on *Newsnight*, 10.30pm.

Major promises parents power to create more grammar schools

THE TORY CAMPAIGN

JOHN MAJOR will today present his proposals to create a grammar school in every town by allowing parents to petition governors to make their schools fully selective (Jill Sherman writes).

The Prime Minister will also announce plans to let school boards of governors appeal directly to the Secretary of State for grammar-school status, rather than having to apply via the local education authority as they do now.

Mr Major hopes that the fast track to the education secretary would encourage for more schools to consider opting for full selection. The Tories see selection as a vote-winner and it will also give them an opportunity to repeat the charge of "hypocrisy" against Shadow Education Secretary Harriet Harman for choosing a selective school for her children.

Parents could initiate the application for the new status by petitioning the board of governors, but just a small group could trigger this request. Once a school has asked to be fully selective, the governors would have to show "a broad consensus of support" from parents.

But sources said there would be no requirement for a formal ballot of the parents or for evidence that more than 50 per cent of the parents supported the move. "Of course if there is a huge body of opposition the Secretary of State probably would not grant the application."

Mr Major and Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, will also confirm that if the Conservatives win a fifth term, this would allow them to renew their policy to permit grant-maintained schools to select 50 per cent of their pupils, specialist schools to select 30 per cent and other schools to select up to 20 per cent. This push for increased selection had to be dropped from the Education Bill last month after Labour and Liberal Democrat opposition.

But some Tory radicals are known to be disappointed that the Government is proposing no incentives for schools to become selective, like those which encouraged schools to opt out of local authority control. They fear that without a cash boost the dream of a grammar school in every town will come to nothing.

Tory manifesto plans would make all schools independent legal entities with charitable status and control over their own admissions policies. That would give them power to submit plans for 100 per cent selection without reference to their education authority.

The new mechanisms mirror those in place for schools seeking grant-maintained status — encouraged to do so and offered support and information by the government-funded Grant Maintained Schools Trust. The proposals envisage a new publicly funded Grammar Schools Trust to serve the same function.

No targets have been set. But Tory strategists believe that a tenth of secondary schools — that is 400 — could become grammar schools.

Mr Major is expected to reject the charge of bringing back the old 11-plus. Diversity in schools, he is expected to say, means that there need be no universal exam to fit children at 11 into a two-tier education system.

Instead, each school would be free to develop its own selection process — not just an exam, but records of achievement, interviews and a child's performance in National Curriculum tests.

Eurosceptic tycoon takes his campaign to unions

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MORE than 80 per cent of Conservative candidates in seats currently held by the party have taken up the financial inducement offered by a Yorkshire businessman to come out against the single currency in their election addresses, it emerged yesterday.

Paul Sykes, the multimillionaire who sparked the revolt against John Major's options-open policy, will step up his one-man crusade this week by taking his campaign to trade unions and small business.

He has spent more than £500,000 and is prepared to sink well over £1 million into his battle. Mr Sykes said yesterday that some 230 candidates in Tory-held seats had taken up his offer and were receiving sums of up to £3,000 to help their re-election campaign. With ministers obviously debarred from availing themselves of the offer, it appears that only about 25 candidates in seats currently held by the Conservatives have not said they are against the single currency.

Now the 53-year-old businessman, who owns 40 per cent of the giant Meadowhall shopping centre near Sheffield, has decided to employ the services of a leading polling organisation to gauge true feelings about the single currency in unions and among the workers in small firms. He intends to take out advertisements in the national newspapers from next weekend to publish the results.

He is convinced that just as his campaign at the Tory grassroots has shown the extent of Conservative opposition to the single currency, the polling exercise will show the worries of British workers about abolishing the pound.

He said: "I am doing this to help the Conservative Party get re-elected. I have received overwhelming response to my offer of campaign funds and the true position of the Conservative Party has emerged. That feeling is more widespread than anyone knows. The single currency will be so inflexible for this country — we must keep our power to vary interest rates."

Sykes: funding for election campaigns

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Indian coalition picks 'principled' Prime Minister

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AFTER three weeks of political turmoil, India yesterday named its new Prime Minister to lead a shaky coalition government and avoid its second general election in a year.

Gujral celebrating in Delhi yesterday

Inder Kumar Gujral, 77, the External Affairs Minister, who is rare in boasting almost no political enemies, was chosen by the leaders of a dozen parties, the United Front, on Saturday night to stake a claim to form a new administration. He will be the seventh Prime Minister in eight years — a measure of the political instability since the demise of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty.

President Sharma decided last night that his bid was viable and announced that Mr Gujral would be sworn in this morning. The last Government, led by H. D. Deve Gowda, was toppled in a confidence vote in parliament after the Congress Party withdrew support. It will now return to the fold, probably as a parliamentary ally rather than as a member of the new administration.

Mr Gujral's victory will be welcomed throughout the diplomatic community, where he is respected for putting relations with neighbouring countries on a sounder footing. He has declared it a "mission" to see normal relations with Pakistan in his lifetime, and in his ten months as foreign minister he has made exceptional overtures to ease cross-border tensions.

He is fluent in Urdu and was born in Jhelum, in what is now Pakistan. He has made nostalgic visits to his childhood home there and has published books in Urdu; his latest, a collection of his speeches, is on sale in Pakistan — a rare tribute to an Indian politician. His international standing — he has twice been foreign minister — will enhance India's standing in the world.

Mr Gujral, whose closest friends are drawn from the literary and intellectual world rather than politics, was the compromise choice to satisfy all the United Front parties. He is known to be principled and, another rarity in Indian politics, honest. Almost no senior figure in Indian politics can boast such a reputation for incorruptibility.

"I want to give a clean government that serves and attends to the basic problems of India — poverty, backwardness and social justice," he said. "If we do not have confidence in ourselves, nobody else is going to help us."

Mr Gujral is a former Ambassador to Moscow. He was sent there as a punishment for defying Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, in a dispute over censorship of Doordarshan, the state-run television network.

He will find it difficult to hold the United Front together: federal coalition government in India, first tried in 1967, has generally been a disaster, and few analysts give his administration much chance of surviving the next four years.

The growth of regional groups and the decline of the Congress Party means all future governments are likely to be coalitions. The United Front fractured over the weekend, although not fatally, when the Tamil Maanila Congress, from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, announced its withdrawal, leaving Mr Gujral without the men he expected to serve as Finance Minister and Labour Minister.

Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress Party, who brought down the outgoing Government because of a personal feud with Mr Deve Gowda, said he would back Mr Gujral.

The incoming Prime Minister started political life as a Communist leader in pre-partition India. At the age of 23 Mr Gujral was jailed for taking part in the independence movement. He does not have a political base. He is a member of the indirectly elected Rajya Sabha (upper house), a sedate institution compared with the more important Lok Sabha (lower house).

Kashmiris deny stealing funds

Delhi: Three top Kashmiri separatist leaders have been accused of siphoning off millions of dollars in foreign donations earmarked for rebuilding the strife-torn state, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. The leaders of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference, a forum of about two dozen political and Muslim separatist organisations, denied the accusation by the Central Bureau of Investigation. *(AFP)*

PAUL HANNA / REUTER

Thousands watch the unveiling of a copy of the 2nd-century statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius at the Piazza del Campidoglio in Rome as part of the city's 2,750th anniversary. The original is in the nearby Capitoline Museum

Return of emperor clothed in bronze

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TO A backdrop of music and fireworks, one of Rome's best loved symbols, the bronze statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius astride his horse, returned to its rightful place on Capitol Hill at the weekend after an absence of 16 years.

But some of the thousands of Romans and tourists at Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio to see the Emperor unveiled expressed disappointment that the statue is an immaculate, painstakingly reproduced copy. The 2nd century original is a few steps away, behind glass at the Capitoline Museum — its bronze, and some remaining gold, gleaming through a green oxidised coating.

Marcus Aurelius (AD 121-180) is remembered as an unusually humane and thoughtful Roman ruler. His return coincides with Rome's official 2,750th birthday, and is part of a plan to spruce up the city's ancient monuments for the millennium.

Officials said the original, removed in 1981 because of damage from pollution, might be put back if Rome's high impurity levels were reduced. The statue stood for centuries outside the Lateran Palace, and was covered in gold. According to local legend, the re-appearance of the gold coating will signal the end of the world, with the Emperor's horse announcing the Last Judgment.

Work on the dully-gleaming bronze reproduction was started by students from the Scuola dell'Arte della Medaglia, who because the original was too fragile for a cast to be taken, made plaster moulds from computerised photographs. Foundrymen from the State Mint then made the statue from a bronze alloy as close as possible to the 2nd century mixture of copper and tin.

Mr Hwang, left, and his associate, Kim Duk Hong, arrive to a red-carpet welcome in Seoul yesterday

Korean defector says he tried to avert war

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE North Korean defector, Hwang Jang Yop, said yesterday that he fled to try to prevent a war breaking out between the two sides on the divided peninsula.

Arriving in Seoul via the Philippines after he and an aide walked into the South Korean embassy in Beijing to seek asylum on February 12, he painted a grim picture of a feudal dictatorship close to collapse and reduced to begging as it struggled to survive a crippling famine. In a ploy to save North Korea's face, Mr Hwang was flown to the Philippines on March 18.

"The North Korean economy is almost paralysed. People are suffering from starvation and the Government has no choice but to beg from international agencies," Mr Hwang said after landing amid tight security.

Mr Hwang, 74, the most senior Pyongyang official to seek political asylum in the South, raised his arms in triumph as he emerged from the chartered aircraft to read a statement, which was broadcast live on television.

"I came to South Korea because I am convinced the only way out is to prevent war by joining hands with our brothers in the South," he said, in a voice betraying emotion.

South Korea has agreed to allow the United States to interview Mr Hwang. William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, said last night.

Beijing's advance guard arrives for Hong Kong change

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

FORTY men, handpicked for their faith in the Communist Party, today become the first Chinese mainland military unit to set foot in Hong Kong for more than 156 years.

The mainlanders are an advance party of the People's Liberation Army, which will take over from the British armed forces when the Union Flag is lowered over Hong Kong at midnight on June 30.

The challenge of history lies before them, but there is a more pressing dilemma: how will they get over the shock of living with the Ladies from Hell? For the next few months, they will live side-by-side with the 1st Regiment the Black Watch — the battle-honoured force whose kilts and fighting spirit earned them the sobriquet from German troops in the First World War.

"They will be attending briefings and will be having meetings with the garrison and government departments, and also visiting other sites," said Major John Herring, the spokesman for the British garrison. "Precise details of the liaison are still to be confirmed; there's no precedent for this."

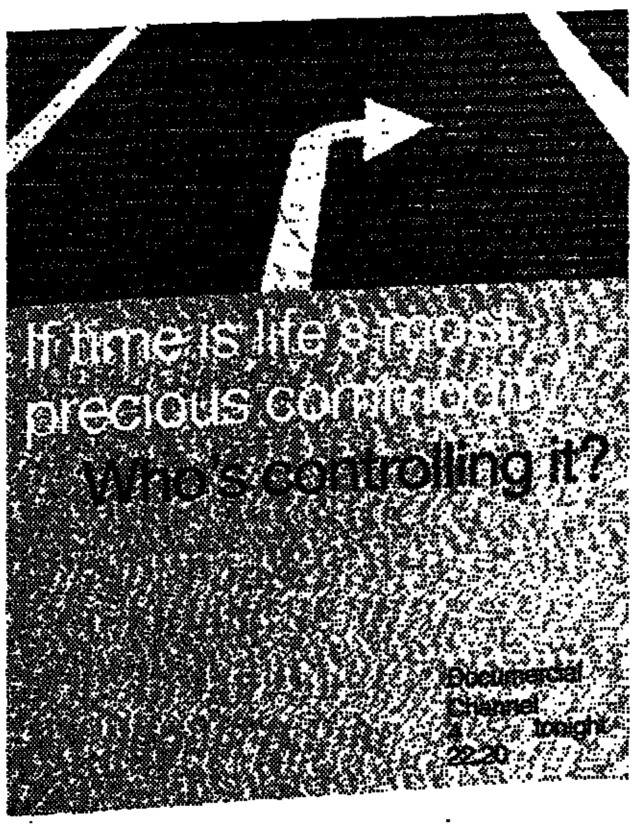
The Chinese soldiers' first taste of British garrison life will be two kilted and tattooed Black Watch soldiers standing guard outside the Prince of Wales barracks. Once inside, they will be led past portraits of the Queen and the Queen Mother and regimental paintings of battle scenes from the world wars. The British have laid on four cooking woks, Chinese signs, and a Mandarin-speaking officer.

A liaison group of 28, led by the Deputy Commander, will be with the British forces in Blake Block at the Prince of Wales Barracks. The other 12 will be located with the British garrison at the Stonecutters Island Barracks.

The Chinese forces have undergone strict training. They are all tall, disciplined, well-educated and mostly English-speaking, and like nothing better than singing "I love you, Hong Kong" at karaoke parties, Chinese officials said. Their senior officers will earn less than £350 a month.

Meanwhile, at least 3,000 Chinese frontier police have carried out a land and sea sweep to attempt to halt a flood of illegal immigrants who are crossing the border into Hong Kong. Rumours have spread of an amnesty for mainland immigrants after independence.

☐ **Taipei:** The second of two ships which became the first to sail directly to Taiwan from China in 48 years arrived yesterday in the southern Kaohsiung harbour. *(Reuter)*



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Netanyahu escapes charges but fights for political life

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ALTHOUGH a legal report rejected for lack of evidence a police recommendation that fraud and breach of trust charges be brought against him, Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, last night launched a fight for his political survival.

Publication of the report plunged Israel into a new stage of a crisis that will not be resolved until junior coalition partners have met to decide if they will continue to back his Government, which has 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

In spite of the short breathing space given to Mr Netanyahu by the report, presented by Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, and Edna Arbel, the State Attorney, commentators believe the political crisis is far from over.

According to the report, which took six days to prepare and was rushed out in advance of the Passover holiday starting today, the top law officers have ruled that, subject to his immunity as a member of the Knesset being lifted, charges of fraud, obstruction of justice and extortion should be brought against Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, which controls ten of the coalition's seats. Leading members of the party have already threatened a "political earthquake" if Mr Deri is charged.

At a tense news conference, Mr Rubinstein said no decision had yet been made about police recommendations that charges of breach of trust be brought against Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's office and one of Mr Netanyahu's closest confidantes.

The report ruled that the police recommendation of charges against Tzachi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, should not be acted on, also because of lack of evidence. The Attorney-General said there were "grounds for bewilderment" about Mr Netanyahu's part in the appointment of Roni Bar-On, a Jerusalem criminal lawyer, as Attorney-General.

The scandal began in January when Israeli television claimed that his short-lived appointment — he resigned within hours — had been made because of a deal whereby Mr Deri, already facing corruption charges elsewhere, would be granted a plea bargain by Mr Bar-On. In exchange he was alleged to have offered to persuade his ministers to back the deal to pull troops out of Hebron.

Shortly before the report's publication, Yehuda Harel, chairman of the Third Way, which commands four Knesset seats, said: "Even if no one is charged, should it become clear that very serious things were done from a public and democratic standpoint, we will not be able to go on backing the Government and will want early elections."

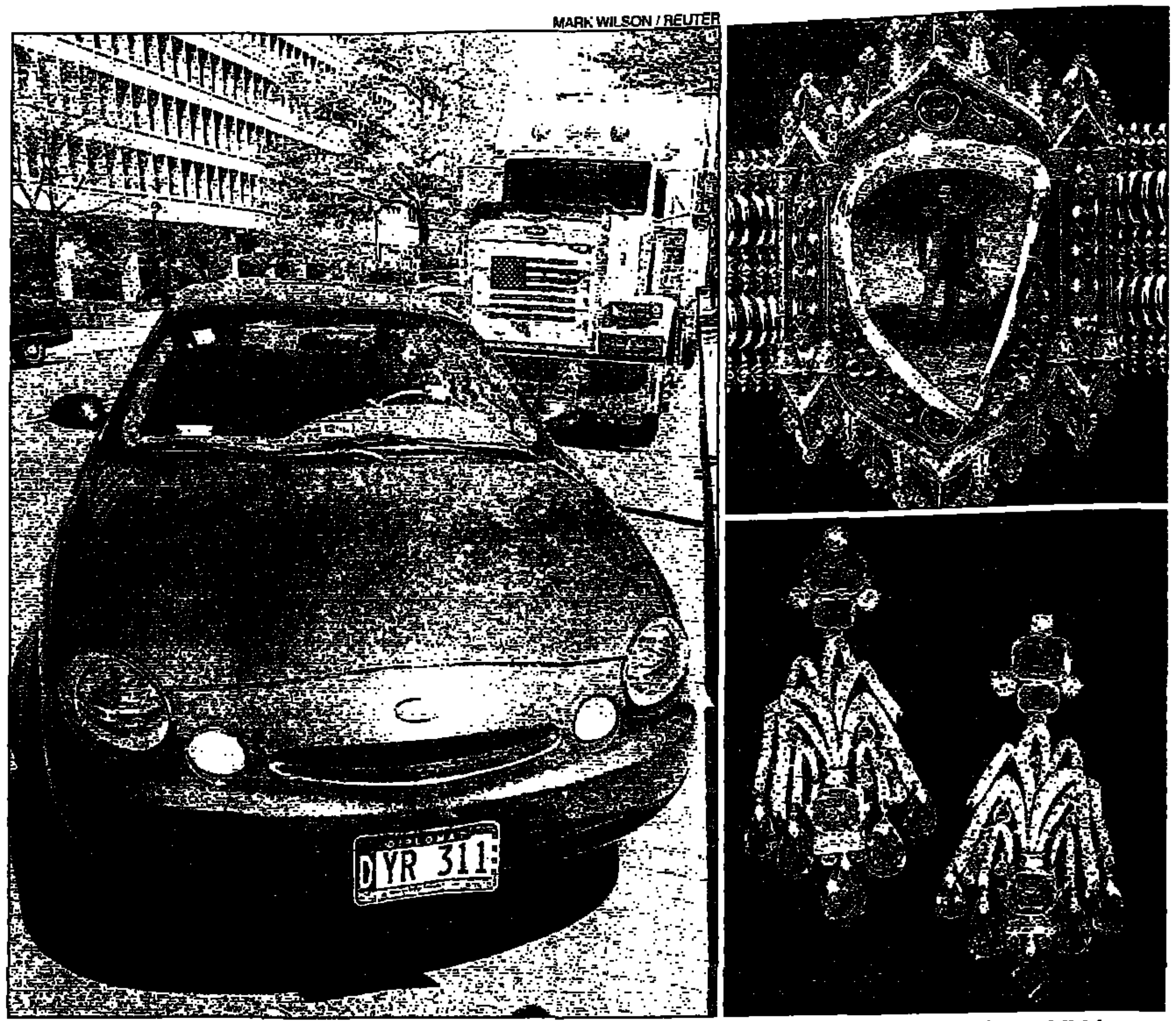
Last night it emerged that Natan Sharansky, whose party has seven seats, could emerge as either king-maker or king-breaker. Earlier he said his new party would quit if only "10 per cent" of the original TV allegations of sleaze were true, but it was unclear last night whether he stood by this pledge. He is a personal friend of Mr Netanyahu and has recently had intensive private talks with him.

With the main left-wing opposition Labour Party under Shimon Peres pressing hard for a new general election, Mr Netanyahu yesterday held a series of meetings with coalition partners and with Likud ministers, unhappy with the moral aspects of the report, in a determined attempt to persuade them against standing down.

Treasures of the tsar rekindle Cold War

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

MARK WILSON / REUTER



A Russian Embassy car hemming in a removal truck in New York to stop it leaving with part of an exhibition of tsarist treasures, including a bracelet containing a flat diamond, top, and diamond and sapphire earrings

IN WHAT might be called a cultural cold war, treasures of the tsars were yesterday stuck for a fifth day in a removal van being blockaded by Russian Embassy cars on a Washington street.

The Russians say the dispute is over where next to show the treasures, valued at $100 million (£61.5 million). The Americans say it is about money.

A dazzling array of more than 115 imperial jewels, including an egg-sized stone known as Caesar's Ruby, a 250-carat sapphire and one of the world's largest cut diamonds, was locked in the vaults of the Corcoran Gallery at the end of a ten-week exhibition that drew 80,000 visitors.

Some exhibits — gowns worn by Catherine the Great, plus two dozen boxes of icons, artefacts and portraits from the Romanov court — were already loaded into the removal van outside, just down the street from the White House. It cannot move, because cars parked fore and aft and manned around the clock by Russian diplomats have it boxed in.

The exhibition was arranged by the American Russian Cultural Co-operation Foundation, a Washington non-profit group, in collaboration with the Russian Organising Committee, an offshoot of the Russian Ministry of Culture.

Last week, the Russians sprang a surprise. They wanted their treasures back at once, instead of them going as planned to Houston and then on a two-year American tour. They were needed to mark Moscow's 850th anniversary, they said, adding that the cultural foundation had broken a promise to sign a contract giving them more say over the exhibition, its security and its travels.

On the contrary, said James Symington, chairman of the foundation, the Americans already had a contract giving them control. Peter Marzio, director of the Houston museum, where the treasures are due next, added a rider. Every time he asked the Russians what they wanted, he said, "they start slipping into money".

Arbel: has won praise for tough approach

Sleaze inquiry tests iron will of woman prosecutor

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE future of Israel's right-wing Government has rested in the hands of Edna Arbel, described by *The Jerusalem Report* magazine as the most powerful woman in Israel.

Aged 53 and the mother of three daughters, Mrs Arbel was responsible, with Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, for the report published last night on which the fate of Binyamin Netanyahu's Government may depend. His administration has been rocked by the scandal surrounding the short-lived appointment of a previous Attorney-General, Roni Bar-On, an obscure Jerusalem criminal lawyer.

As Israel's State Attorney, or chief prosecutor, Mrs Arbel is having her legendary toughness put to the test in the worst sleaze scandal to hit a state that has seen its fair share. Since last week's deliberate leak of police recommendations calling for the prosecution of the Prime Minister on fraud and breach of trust charges, she has come under pressure that many in the legal world would have found impossible to resist. Writing shortly before the report was made public, Peter Hirschberg, a journalist, concluded: "If she decides not to prosecute, she knows she might well be allowing the establishment of weak political norms. If she does press charges — especially in a case where the law is unclear — she knows her office will be up against the country's finest private lawyers and that at stake is nothing less than the public's faith in the legal system. Acquittals could make future prosecution of public figures much more difficult."

Even before publication of a decision she termed "hard and certainly not simple", Mrs Arbel — born in Haifa when it was part of British-mandated Palestine — had shown her legal mettle in a style that has convinced many she was the right person for a job she took on reluctantly 14 months ago.

Last November she indicted the Justice Minister, Yaacov Neeman, for giving false testimony to the Supreme Court. Two months earlier she had brought charges against Ehud Olmert, the high-profile right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, for his alleged role in a late 1980s Likud party funding scandal.

Zaire rebels threaten to open fresh front

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S advancing rebels claim to have boosted their forces with 100,000 recruits and are threatening to open a western front to increase pressure on Kinshasa, the capital, and force President Mobutu to step down.

Laurent Kabila, the leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, told a rally of 10,000 supporters in Lubumbashi on Saturday that the capture of Kinshasa "won't take long ... we'll be in Kinshasa very soon. We're only 200 kilometres (120 miles) away".

He said that in Bas-Zaïre, the most western province, "100,000 young men have joined our cause".

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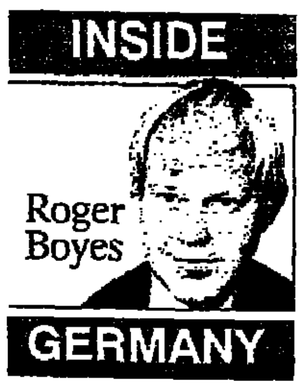
Bonn padlocks the biscuit tin in cost-cutting retreat to Fortress Europe



The German Foreign Ministry recently circulated a memorandum insisting that its diplomats pay for coffee and biscuits served to guests. Visitors to the ministry, even big-time officials with a view of the Rhine, must either tank up beforehand or gamble on the personal generosity of their hosts. Budgets are shrinking, as is Germany's global reach.

For more than 40 years, Germany's foreign policy appeared cash-driven. The label of economic giant and political dwarf — misleading, as after Suez Germany was a political middleweight gobbling steroids — allowed Bonn to build up worldwide clout without attracting hostile motives. Bonn became the most influential Western aid donor after Washington; its grants and credit guarantees, its eager trade missions, its championing of the poor and the obscure edged out financially hobbled former colonial powers. This international dimension of German power started to crumble after unification.

Official development aid slumped by more than a quarter between 1990 and 1995. Germany is now in full retreat from its slightly artificial world role. Attempts to secure a permanent United Nations Security Council seat merely cover the tracks: Bonn has lost much of its interest in the world outside the main power centres. Instead Germany is intent on defining itself as the pivotal European state. The aid budget has shrivelled, not only because of German unity bills and the spending cuts needed to qualify for economic and monetary union. Money and energy have been channelled into reconstructing traditional German markets in Central and Eastern Europe.

Between 1990 and 1995 Germany allocated just over DM10 billion (£3.6 billion) to development aid. In the same period, DM159 billion went to Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. Significantly, Carl-Dieter Spranger, the Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development, attracts notice when he visits Ukraine but not Uganda. His contributions to the public debate about mass emigration from Eastern Europe to Germany are carefully noted, but his statements about Zaire's refugee problem are not.

The shift of emphasis is quite understandable, yet unsettling. The do-gooding Federal Republic with its solid liberal consensus, with the will (and cash) to help, is giving way to a hard-nosed state that watches the coffee budget and focuses more and more on narrow self-interest. Germany is still trying to work out a national interest — a team of political scientists under Michael Stürmer is brooding on the subject — and the murky discipline of geopolitics (abused by Hitler and his quest for Lebensraum) is back in vogue. The priority is plain: to make a united Europe into a regional superpower capable of guaranteeing Germany's long-term security and prosperity.

That may make Britain uneasy but there is no doubt that Germany is acting rationally and not out of some atavistic desire to rekindle the Third Reich. The first casualties of this new self-confidence are in the developing world. Eighteen months ago, Helmut Kohl visited South Africa and promised to open markets for his "true friend" Nelson Mandela. Since then, Europe has been particularly parsimonious in free-trade negotiations. Some markets will be opened up for Johannesburg but in return South Africans are expected to cut tariffs dramatically.

Germany submitted a list of 90 South African products it wanted excluded from any liberalisation. Bonn is agitating against South African fruit and flowers, just as it lobbies against South American beef. It is time for Britain to rethink some of its assumptions about Germany. Britain considered Bonn an ally on free-trade issues.

Yet it acts, increasingly, as a protectionist government. What kind of Europe is Germany cobbling together? As jobs melt away in France and Germany, so pressure increases to shield threatened domestic communities.

In this timid world, everything from Polish coal to South African apples is seen as a menace to prosperity and social stability. Europe, in meshing more closely, is also turning inwards, a sense of siege replacing the big visionary phrases of yesteryear.

Kohl faces tax rises and welfare cuts to meet euro date

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government will soon have to announce drastic measures to boost revenue, including a rise in VAT and in petrol tax, to stand a chance of meeting the Maastricht treaty criteria for entry into economic and monetary union.

That was the assessment yesterday of leading politicians after a leak of the spring forecast of Germany's six top economic institutes which calculates Bonn will significantly overshoot the EMU deficit and public spending targets.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is under pressure to tell the parliamentary budget committee on Wednesday precisely how Bonn intends to keep on track for the euro — and come clean about planned tax increases.

The German political calendar is now almost entirely dictated by EMU. On May 15 the official prediction of Germany's likely tax revenue for this year will be announced, defining exactly how much more has to be saved. By July 1 — if the opposition Social Democrats agree — the Government is expected to propose an increase in VAT by 1 per cent to reach 16 per cent, and push petrol tax up from 6 to 10 per cent. But even those steps may not be sufficient to avoid yet more cuts in social welfare spending.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, told the Hessische Rundfunk radio station yesterday that the single currency would start on time. "We [Germany] will meet the criteria and, in particular, the criteria for public debt," he added, saying: "The timetable will be met."

The six institutes, which present their forecast tomorrow, are expected to announce that Germany will have a public sector deficit of 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product this year, compared to the 3 per cent ceiling set by Maastricht. The forecasters reckon on average unemployment this year of 4.3 million. Government figures had previously estimated an average of 4.1 million, which would have just kept Bonn on course for the euro.

"Now it's getting really serious," said Norbert Wieczorek, the Social Democratic chairman of the parliamentary budget committee. "We expect Waigel to set out the facts as they really are, unadorned and without waffle."

He said that he shared the view of government politicians that it would be almost impossible to achieve German participation in EMU on the basis of 1997 results. There was no longer any way around yet more public borrowing; all savings possibilities had been exhausted, the Social Democrat said.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has repeatedly stated that he will not increase VAT this year but it seems plain that he will have to backtrack. But such tax increases would trigger political clashes and may tear apart the coalition Government.

Herr Kohl's junior partner, the Free Democrats, are also against such tax rises. Hermann Otto Solms, the party chairman, said: "It can only damage the common European currency." Herr Kohl's other partner in government, the Bavarian Christian Social Union, is opposing a rise in petrol tax in part because Bavaria is the hub of much of the German car industry.

"Increasing VAT could improve our competitiveness and make labour cheaper," Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, said. He argued that part of the revenue from an increase in VAT could be used to reduce social contributions and encourage employers to take on more staff.

Albanians acclaim returning pretender

FROM TOM WALKER IN BURGAJET

LEKA ZOG, pretender to the Albanian throne, yesterday made his first journey inside the country, greeting tens of thousands of supporters in the family homeland of Mat.

A royal cortège of five black 1960s Mercedes, chrome bumpers gleaming, left Tirana in the morning, accompanied by a motley assortment of bodyguards, Albanian police and well-wishers. By the time it arrived three hours later in Burrel, the main town of Mat district, there were at least 50 vehicles in the motorcade, and this had again doubled as Leka Zog approached Burgajet, birthplace in 1895 of his father, King Zog.

Zog family loyalists living along the route gave Leka Zog an enthusiastic welcome in the best Albanian tradition, blasting weapons of any description in the air. At the first stopping point, the holy spring of Vablime Mat, Leka Zog, who until last week had lived all but two days of his 58 years in exile, was moved by his reception. "It's amazing, great to be out here in this wonderful land," he said. "Back in my father's time we could always raise about 2,000 rifles — we'd get about ten times that number now."

The fierce clan loyalties of Mat district helped Zog proclaim himself King in 1928, and there was every indication yesterday they could become a strong card for his son as he seeks to build a power base amid the political chaos.

Throughout Leka Zog cut an extraordinary figure: at 6ft 8in he towers head and shoulders above most Albanians, and extricating him from the lead Mercedes — ironically, previously used by Enver Hoxha, the Communist despot — was a task in itself.

In Burgajet thousands stampeded up the steep hillsides to catch their first glimpse of Leka Zog, swarming like ants in a stunning vast panaroma encompassing the snow-capped central highlands. "I am among my brothers and sisters," he said. "We must work for peace and unity, to build a future for the coming generations."

Leading article, page 23

JERRY LAMPEN : REUTER

Leka Zog is mobbed yesterday as he visits Burgajet, the birthplace of his father

Bulgarians elect Right to oversee austerity

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN SOFIA

BULGARIANS gave the centre-right Union of Democratic Forces victory in yesterday's poll, about 52 per cent backing President Stoyanov's party.

It was less than an overwhelming triumph, with a turnout of only 62 per cent. The former Communists, the Socialist Party, avoided total humiliation with 23 per cent of the vote. The Monarchists were third, their surprisingly high 8 per cent reflecting the success of the deposed King Simeon's recent visits.

"It was a good victory, but not a great one," a foreign diplomat commented. The Right did well in Sofia, with its developed business culture, and in Black Sea cities such as Varna, while the Socialists are still the majority party in old strongholds such as Vidin on the Danube.

Winning the election will have been the easy part for the UDF: appallingly difficult economic decisions lie ahead. An emergency programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has saved the currency from collapse, but Bulgaria remains in intensive care.

An austerity programme will mean severe hardship: about 20 per cent of the population already live below the poverty line.

Fire adds to havoc in flooded Dakota town

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FLAMES destroyed three buildings in the centre of Grand Forks and the North Dakota town's fire brigade could only watch — cut off by floodwater. All nearby streets had disappeared under the Red River, swollen by melting snows.

Attempts were made, with limited success, to extinguish the fires from the air. Many of the 50,000 citizens were forced to abandon Grand Forks when the Red River burst through various levees and sandbag dykes built last week by volunteers. Across the river, in East Grand Forks, muddy water swirled after breaching an inadequate barrier.

Some residents had to be rescued by helicopter, and were being offered accommodation at makeshift shelters or in the homes of those living on higher ground. The floods are expected to get worse before subsiding in a week's time.

Seventy-five miles south of Grand Forks emergency workers in Fargo were forced to build a levee that left more than 300 homes in the floodpath. One flat belonged to Ed Schafer, North Dakota's Governor, who called the floods "the worst disaster in the history of our state".

Photograph, page 26

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Final trip in space for Leary ashes

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THE late American drop-out guru and drug fiend, Timothy Leary — or what remains of him — should today zoom far higher than even he achieved in his hallucinogen-smudged lifetime. Some of his ashes will be dispatched into space in what is being described as the first "space funeral".

Leary, together with Gene Rodenberry, creator of Star Trek, was one of 24 eccentrics whose ashes will be included in tiny capsules attached to a Spanish satellite launch over the Canary Islands.

The space-bound satellite and celestial urn will be carried to 36,000ft on a Lockheed L1011 aircraft before its rocket detaches and is ignited. The Minisat rocket should then blast out of Earth's atmosphere, taking Leary, Rodenberry et al with it.

Friends of Leary, who died after a long illness last year, hope that the stunt will give the old iconoclast's soul "one last far-out trip". He heard about the $4,800 (£2,900) space funeral shortly before his death. Carol Rosin, an acquaintance, said: "He was so excited that he would finally go into space that he jumped up and down in his wheelchair. I know that is the moment that he decided it was time to die."

The ashes of the "space pioneers" are in capsules the size of a lipstick. After floating in orbit for about ten years they are expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere, burning up in a flash of light.

Celestis, the Texas-based enterprise organising the space funeral, hopes to repeat the exercise for others, making perhaps three launches a year.

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Scientists who can never forget a face

Anjana Ahuja on how our unique looks can be quantified

MELANIE ACEVEDO/SOA

Digital technology can record distinctive facial curves so that doctors can help patients to recover their looks

With only a few strokes of a pen, a caricaturist is able to sketch a human likeness. Among thousands of heads at a pop concert, we are able to discern friends from strangers.

Without knowing it, both artist and concertgoer are analysing "ridge curves". These are regions on the face showing extreme curvature — the contours of the nose, the rise of the cheeks and the curl of the chin. These distinctive curves, and their proportions to each other, are used intuitively by the brain to match them to individuals.

Now, in a collaborative project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, statisticians at Leeds University and medical physicists at University College, London, are putting numbers to these curves, in an attempt to find a way to map the human face.

The research, led by Professor Kanti Mardia and Professor John Kent at Leeds, and Dr Alf Linney at University College, has two major applications. First, the face maps are being used by plastic surgeons to reconstruct faces, and to measure the effectiveness of treatments for facial deformities. Second, transforming a face into a series of numbers is equivalent to giving it a digital signature, which could soon be employed in the identification of criminals.

The researchers are seeking a mathematical method of encoding faces that is both quick and simple, and reliable enough to be accepted in courts of law.

An example of a facial deformity is hemifacial microsomia, where one side of the face develops faster than the other. The face gradually begins to look lopsided, especially the chin. This unevenness can appear from the age of five.

There are conflicting views about the best way of correcting this distressing congenital condition, which affects three out of a thousand people. Some doctors administer drugs to accelerate growth on the slow side. Others advocate surgery. Another method is to use appliances to train the face to grow in a certain way.

"There was no quantitative evaluation of which method was working," Dr Linney says: "It was like trying to measure something without a ruler. Now, we can use the face maps to track the long-term effect of the treatments."

The maps are produced by scanning the patient's face with a laser, which produces tens of thousands of numbers, or co-ordinates. The co-ordinates are grouped into small clusters, and smoothed by taking statistical averages of the numbers in each portion. Then the average curvature of each part of the face can be calculated. By repeating this before and after surgery, any differences in face shape can be recorded.

'Maps are made by scanning the head with a laser'

The maps have also been used to plan plastic surgery. For example, with hemifacial microsomia patients, a surgeon can use a map of the "normal side" to help to restore symmetry, removing the trial-and-error factor. The charts have also helped surgeons to perform operations previously regarded as too risky. The unpredictability arises because soft tissues move around after surgery, and, for younger patients, operations might affect how the face will grow and develop. Now the surgery can be simulated on computer first.

However, it is in the field of identification that perhaps the most fascinating research is going on. Most people possess powerful abilities of recognition and discrimination. For example, we are easily able to distinguish male faces from female ones, but exactly what constitutes masculinity or femininity is largely unknown.

The problem is, these abilities are not infallible. Who has not suffered the embarrassment of waving to someone across a street, only to discover that they have been waving to a stranger? Worse, there is a greater chance of misidentification in stressful situations, such as hold-ups or assaults. Consequently, eyewitness accounts are increasingly dismissed as unreliable.

In response to this, courts are relying more and more on evidence from video cameras. But video surveillance has its drawbacks such as poor clarity. This is where scientists can help. Dr Linney says: "If we want to identify a face linked to a crime, what features do we need?"

The researchers have joined the Police Foundation, and Forensic Technology, a Scottish company, to try to establish a formula that can allow a face to be identified. They are making progress and recently published a paper in the *Journal of Applied Statistics*, outlining the problems associated with a "facial fingerprint" system. They took photographs of 360 white males, and looked at 11 different measurements of facial features. The idea was to discover measurements with the widest variation in the general population.

Professor Mardia says: "A pattern of landmarks, with points representing the eyes, nostrils, ears and mouth corners, is another method of differentiating between people. But more research is needed to uncover precisely which of the components of a face are unique to individuals."

Initially, the researchers are aiming for a measurement system which gives no more than four matches for every thousand faces. They are aware that their eventual technique must be virtually foolproof. Just one doubt is enough to wreck a court case, which is why the statistical work by Leeds is so crucial. "It's no different from the controversy that surrounded DNA testing when it was first introduced," Dr Linney says. "This has got to stand up in court." They hope to solve the problem within two years.

Dental defects ☐ Roost boost ☐ Tracing tots

Roots of disease

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

MANY people take their teeth for granted, neglecting regular dental appointments. Perhaps they should think again. Evidence is mounting that diseases of the mouth can greatly increase the risk of deadlier afflictions, such as heart disease.

In America, Professor Robert Genco, of the University of Buffalo in New York State, reports that in a population of native Americans in Arizona, gum disease was a stronger predictor of future heart disease than any of the conventional risk factors such as high blood pressure, high levels of cholesterol, age or gender.

"We have always suspected that periodontal disease was a true risk factor for cardiovascular disease, but our studies have been confounded by the presence of smoking," Professor Genco says. "Smoking is rare in this community of Pima Indians, so it was not a factor. We found a powerful association between the existence of periodontal disease at the beginning of the study and the development of cardiovascular disease in the succeeding ten years."

Dr Haroun Shah, of Eastman Dental Institute at the University of London, finds these results interesting. "Earlier studies have shown that women with gum disease tend to have underweight babies," he says. Last year he organised a conference at the institute on the contributions that infections of the mouth may have to general health.

At the conference, Dr Sydney Finegold, of the University of California at Los Angeles, said that many infections may involve bacteria that originate in the mouth, including pneumonia, brain abscess, meningitis and bowel diseases. Some dentists claim that the dangers are greater in people who have had root canal surgery. This involves removing the main nerve in the tooth and filling the space, but many tiny nerve "tubules" remain and may act as a reservoir of infection.

Dr Shah says he was sceptical initially, but now thinks the theory has to be taken seriously. Although the immune system cannot get rid of bacteria living in the root canal, healthy people can prevent them invading the rest of the body, but the elderly or those with lowered immune function may not be able to do so.

"A few years ago it would not have been possible to demonstrate any link between infections in the mouth and in the rest of the body. But with the advent of DNA fingerprinting techniques it is now possible to follow the movement of a single infective agent throughout the body," he says.

Professor Genco blames bacteria for the link between gum and heart disease in the Pima Indians. "They enter the bloodstream via small ulcers in the gum tissue," he says. "These bacteria cause platelets in the blood to aggregrate and form clumps. These clumps accumulate on damaged tissue, such as lesions in the blood vessel or a heart valve replacement. The accumulated clumps can block a blood vessel. There are many reasons to treat gum disease. This is a very good one."

Warblers now have a supper to sing for

THE Seychelles warbler was once the most endangered species on Earth, with a bare 30 left on the island of Cousin. Conservation efforts paid off, however, and by 1982 the numbers were up to 320 — scarcely comfortable, but a great improvement. The trouble was that the birds were reproducing very slowly, at an average of only 0.3 chicks per breeding pair per year.

Dutch researchers from the University of Groningen suspected that the cause was genetic impoverishment. The species had been so nearly wiped out that its genetic base was narrow, and inbreeding had caused a loss of fertility. To test this, they studied a group of 29 birds which had been released in 1988 on the neighbouring island of Aristide.

They found the birds to be flourishing. In spite of inbreeding, they are vigorous little birds that raise chicks in plenty throughout the year. The conclusion is that genetic impoverishment had nothing to do with the problem, which was caused entirely by a scarcity of food on Cousin. Given a decent diet, the birds warble with the best of them.

Children's prints just drift away

WHEN children commit crimes, they are much less likely to leave behind incriminating fingerprints, according to an American chemist. The reason, says Dr Michelle Buchanan, of the US National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is that children's fingerprints evaporate quickly from warm surfaces because they contain many volatile fatty acids.

After puberty, the glands in the skin begin to secrete heavier, less volatile alkyl esters that linger longer. Dr Buchanan was called in after police failed to find the fingerprints of a kidnapped three-year-old despite accounts by witnesses that placed her in the house they had searched.

Her study, presented last week at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, showed that fingerprint tests reveal far more than whorls and ridges. They also reveal cholesterol, nicotine and hormone levels. "Maybe down the road police will be able to say 'this print was made by a male who smokes and has high cholesterol'," says Stephen Jarboe, a team member.

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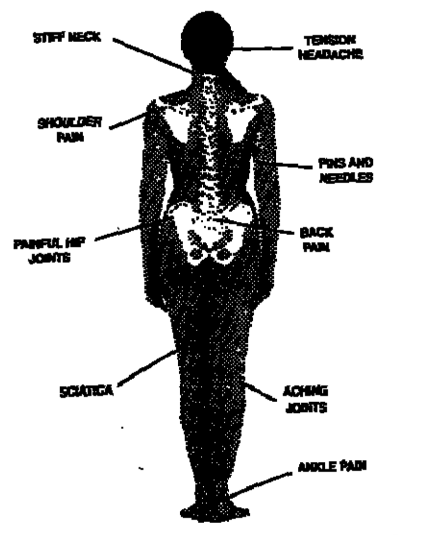

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Hitched: Patsy Kensit and Liam Gallagher

Marriage: why it's hip to get hitched

Suddenly, it's no longer cool to co-habit. Commitment is the real rebellion. Opposite, **Joe Joseph** investigates the marriage phenomenon, while below **Barry Turner** and **Tania Kindersley** describe their own experience

Hitched: Rebecca Miller and Daniel Day-Lewis

We're saying thanks for the wonderful years

MARRIAGE AT 60

"Don't do it," said the lady novelist when I let slip that I was planning to marry for the third time. It was one of those suffocatingly crowded parties where nose-to-nose conversations make for uninvited intimacies.

"Why ever not?" "Well, for one thing," she said, "you're too old."

Too old? At 60? Come on. I am known to turn in a good day's work. I can still get across the road without help. As for sex, I defer to Groucho Marx. Marrying a girl a third his age, it was suggested that sex might be dangerous. "Well," said Groucho, "if she dies, she dies."

Not that our age difference is that great. It can be a bit unnerving when I reflect that Mary was born the year I started my military service. But she has now topped 40, a woman of independent mind and successful career. It can hardly be said that I am leading her astray.

And, I love her, dammit! There, I've said it. The cloak of English reserve having been cast aside, I can now reveal that we have lived together for some time. We know each other's little habits and tolerate them, even if I do scream silently when I am told to turn left when she really means straight on. And I have been known to utter abuse when, for the umpteenth time, I have fallen over a pair of shoes left carelessly in the middle of the bedroom floor.

Of my own irritating characteristics, or at least those I am prepared to recognise, a slight deafness can lead to harsh words. The latest confusion was when Mary told me that Shropshire was too far, which puzzled me because I had no immediate intention of going to Shropshire. In fact she had said, or *said* she had said, that the shopping was in the car. But, as I say, we have learnt to live with our foibles.

So why change anything? Why make formal an accommodation that has worked satisfactorily thus far?

The answer is that the timing is now right. When my second marriage ended, there were two young children to consider. That Linus and Sally have grown up with none of the hang-ups of most other youngsters from split families is much credit to their mother, but also to Mary, who has adored them from the start. Early on in our relationship she decided not to have children of her own, and we both resolved not to stretch loyalties by forcing Linus and Sally to acknowledge a ceremony that would inevitably have created, in them, feelings of guilt. Circumstances now are different. Linus and Sally are as keen as anyone for the marriage to go ahead, not least because it promises a splendid party. I can only commend their sense of priority.

There are other family considerations — though not for me as, apart from Linus and Sally, I am without traceable links. Mary does more than enough to compensate with a sufficiency of relatives to fill the "begat" parts of the Bible. And they all seem to be enormously pleased by the news. It feels good to make so many people happy, though a few years ago their response might not have been so enthusiastic. I have a vivid memory of Mary's father telling me pointedly that he had just renewed his shotgun licence.

Opting for a civil marriage, the question arises, where is the ceremony to be held? Nowadays, of course, you can get married just about anywhere as long as the premises are licensed. Which brings me to the Old Vic. How the idea was born, heaven only knows, but Mary has decided that we should be married on the stage there. Maybe we should offer tickets.

But I have still not quite answered the question of why we are doing it. We are very much in love and there are no longer any family hindrances to marriage, but it would have been easy to carry on as we were. Neither of us bows to convention, and, as the older partner, I am not so naive as to think that a relationship can be made more secure by a scrap of paper.

But there is something else. Having lived with Mary for more than a decade, I know that I am truly content. When I asked her to marry me, it was as much for celebration of the past as hope for the future. I wanted some way of giving thanks for the wonderful years, and a marriage seemed the best, perhaps the only, acknowledgement. I never did get round to thinking what I would have done if Mary had said no.

BARRY TURNER

CHRIS HARRIS

Barry Turner and Mary Fulton: "Having lived with her for more than a decade, I know that I am truly content . . . marriage is as much for celebration of the past as hope for the future"

'Getting married is almost like inverse chic'

A BIASED VIEW

The recent press furore over Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit has really got me wondering. I mean, they're young, they're groovy, they're happening, they've been on the cover of *Vanity Fair*. They're at the epicentre of the *Zeitgeist*. So what on earth do they want to get married for?

Does this mean that marriage is the new rock and roll? Liam and Patsy are hardly Middle England. For these two to get hitched is almost like inverse chic, the same sort of back-to-front logic as the return of lounge music. But it demonstrates a curious phenomenon: people still really want to get married. It doesn't matter how rock and roll they are, it doesn't matter how many times they've done it before, it doesn't matter how modern and iconoclastic they are.

I just don't get it. Depending on who you believe, anything from 35 per cent to 50 per cent of marriages end in failure, rising to 60 per cent if you have the misfortune to live in Hollywood. (It strikes me that in Hollywood, if you're really clever, you just marry your divorce lawyer and save time and money.) I don't call those great odds. If marriage was a horse, no self-respecting gambler would bet on it.

I admit, I am biased. I don't want to get married. If you tell people this, they react in one of three ways: they laugh uneasily, thinking you must be joking; they accuse you of being unnatural, selfish and generally subversive, and then say that you're just saying that to be controversial, and they don't believe you anyway: they give you the most patronising looks you've ever had in your life and tell you that of course you'll change your mind when you meet the right man.

Why is it that this ancient institution is so jealously guarded? Marriage was invented by people who were lucky to live to 40, in another time and another world. Nobody seems to be able to tell me why we're still doing it. When you ask people why they get married even the most articulate become vague. Security, they say. It's the greatest commitment you can make, they mutter. Well, the statistics boys might have something to say about that. It's a flimsy security, safe only until the lawyers get called in.

Tania Kindersley: baffled

Sometimes, usually when they've been drinking, married people get a bit teary and say that marriage is the highest manifestation of their love for each other. This is where I start getting lost again. Dancing up an aisle in a big dress which costs enough to feed a family of four for a month, making vows about till death do us part, which even the most naive must know are no more than an educated guess, and then watching all your friends and relations get drunk and make bad speeches, is not exactly my idea of love's greatest possible manifestation.

I have an absurd, romantic notion that love should exist for its own sake: not because of legal ties, or ceremonial obligation. If ever I consider spending the rest of my life with one person, I should like him to stay for me, not because he's said so in front of a crowd of people, not because divorce is expensive. If you can say to someone: "Here is the door, it's open," that is the real sign of love and trust. Surely that is real security?

So what is this marriage tie? And why can no one explain it to me? Why is it that people still promise to honour and cherish when most men admit that fidelity is something they find difficult at best, impossible at worst. Why is it that married people so often have a slightly baffled, bemused, I-want-my-money-back expression.

Marriage is, for better or worse, an institution and, as Mae West once said, I'm not ready for an institution. I don't want to hand over my identity by taking on someone else's name: I sometimes wake at night in a cold sweat at the idea of being Mrs Someone. I look at married couples, and I don't think it looks like much fun to me. They're the ones who walk into parties and immediately head for opposite ends of the room. The wives complain that they never have sex any more, the husbands complain that they are emasculated and misunderstood.

We're told that marriage is hard work, a long, emotional slog, not just a walk in the park. I've heard women say that they never knew what it was like to be really lonely until they got married.

We've put men on the Moon, we've built a tunnel under the Channel, we're investigating the far reaches of cyberspace. Surely we have the imagination to come up with something better in human relations than an institution that came in with the Ark.

Personally, I think the ideal is to live in separate houses and still go on dates. That way, you not only keep the romance alive, but you never have to argue about who squeezed the toothpaste tube in the middle. And think of all those divorce lawyers who would be out of a job.

TANIA KINDERSLEY

- *Tania Kindersley's most recent book,* Don't Ask Me, *is published by Sceptre.*

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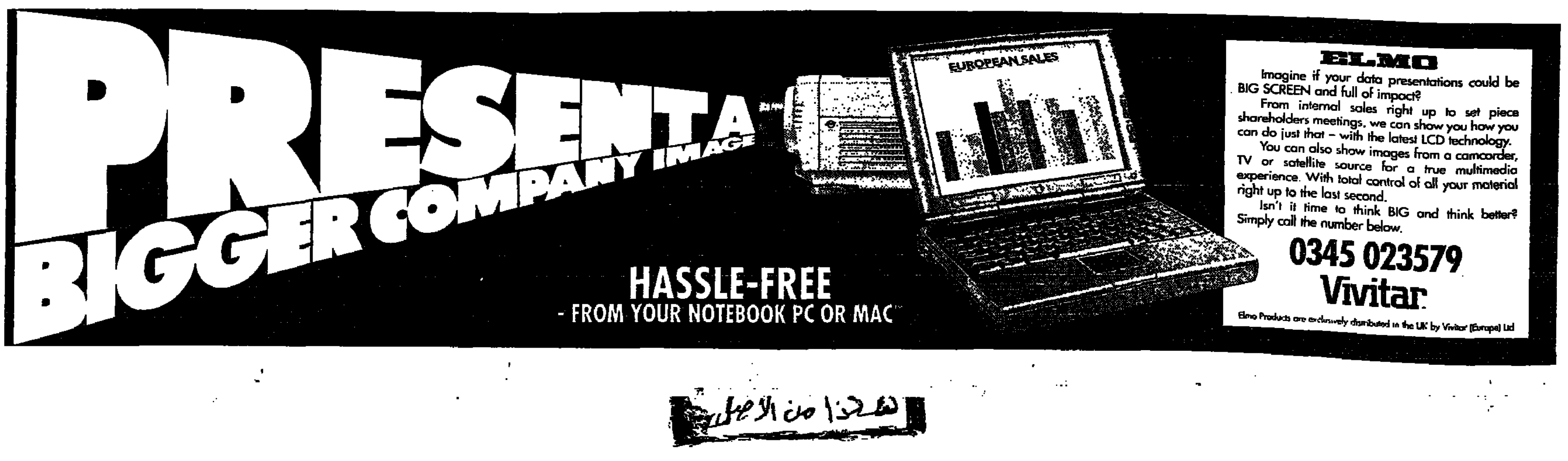

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Everyone is rushing down the aisle to join the trendiest club in town

Joe Joseph on the reasons why matrimony is right back in fashion

The wedding half the nation stayed in for: now Ricky and Bianca from *EastEnders* are married, they are likely to be happier and healthier, according to psychologists

If you're the hip, rebellious type, then naturally the very last thing you want to do is rush off and get married. Because first of all you have to locate a suitable venue, discuss catering arrangements, commission a top florist, and make sure that Smythson's can get all the invitations engraved in time.

But matrimony has become so fashionable that people like Liam and Patsy, and Ricky and Bianca from *EastEnders* have all decided it's the trendiest club in town.

Why? Because at its best, marriage combines a mystical love with rollercoaster excitement — even if it's only the excitement of wondering whether your very next row will be the one that convinces you that you're sharing your life with someone with whom you have nothing in common beyond the right to trial by jury.

These passions and thrills together exert enough emotional pull to persuade even those rather unlikely spouses to get hitched: consider the supposed tearaway Liam Gallagher of Oasis, or the supposed actress Pamela Anderson. Gallagher, who has just married Patsy Kensit in secret, has made desert boots hip again. Why not marriage, too?

Daniel Day-Lewis, also in secret, recently married Arthur Miller's daughter in Vermont, which jolted chums who had him down as a confirmed bachelor. Pop's ever-whitening wonder Michael Jackson recently wed, and that was his *second* bite at the cherry, while last week on *EastEnders*, television's coolest soap, Ricky and Bianca finally got hitched.

Behaving like this is almost a rebellion against the convention of cohabiting. How widespread a rebellion? So widespread that Superman and Lois, after 60 years of cooing across the *Daily Planet* newsroom, just tied the knot.

So what's the big attraction?

One of them is that living together isn't thought so hot any more. Research at the University of California, based on 45,000 marriages, has found that 50 per cent of cohabiting couples who subsequently married were divorced within five years: by contrast, fewer than 40 per cent of those who married without first living together split up during the same period.

Another attraction is that it is *now proven* that marriage is healthier than going to the gym, and without the need for so many freshly laundered towels.

Dr Inez Joung, an epidemiologist at Rotterdam's Erasmus University, has found that happily married couples suffer half the illness and spend half as much time in hospital as single people. Measuring the health of married people against that of single, cohabiting, divorced and widowed men and women for conditions ranging from heart disease to varicose veins, Dr Joung found that "married people were healthier than any of the others, particularly divorced people, who suffered from 30 per cent more chronic conditions".

Somehow, this scientific revelation still doesn't stop divorce in its tracks. Many women rush to the divorce courts because they feel that their husbands are slobbish or insensitive or selfish. But, in fact, most men do remember those small but important details of the woman in their life, such as their birthday and the fact that they have two eyes, one on either side of their nose, probably browny-blue. Anyway, if women really wanted to spend their life with something slim, sanitary and sensitive they'd set up home with a sterilised thermometer.

And just because some unhappily married women actually decide to do just that, don't jump to the conclusion that a booming divorce rate is a bad advertisement for marriage. It is only if you don't actually remarry. By remarrying, divorcées reaffirm their belief in marriage. It is the triumph of hope over experience. Take, for example, Hollywood, which has always been marriage city.

Mickey Rooney, Gloria Swanson, Rex Harrison, Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Johnny "Tarzan" Weissmuller, Ernest Borgnine, George C. Scott, Henry Fonda, Cary Grant, Rita Hayworth, Jason Robards, Eddie Fisher, and Doris Day — between them these 14 Hollywood stars walked *up the aisle 80 times. They* regarded *Variety* not as the name of their trade journal but as some sort of marital command.

But not all showbiz types ricochet up and down the altar like billiard balls. Some are dealt four aces and decide to stick. Paul Newman married Joanne Woodward in 1958, when they were 27 and 23, respectively, and is still happily married ("Why go out for hamburger when you can have steak at home?" is Newman's love theory). Judi Dench, who got hitched to Michael Williams in 1971, says: "Just to be with one another in the same room gives us pleasure. That's the strength of our marriage."

Britain's alternative comedians didn't prove very alternative when it came to popping the question. Ben Elton, Hugh Laurie and Rowan Atkinson have tied the knot. Jennifer Saunders is Mrs Ade Edmonson. Dawn French is married to Lenny Henry, who says: "I have somebody I care for and who cares for me. That's what counts."

Iris Murdoch has been devotedly married to John Bayley for more than 40 years. The fact that the Queen and Prince Philip are coming up for their 50th wedding anniversary, having avoided the rocks that shipwrecked all their children's marriages, might betray something about why divorce has been on the rise.

"The divorce rate is booming because the expectations of marriage have outstripped the education, preparation and support for it," says Dr Jack Dominian, chairman of One Plus One, a charity which carries out research into the prevention of marital breakdown.

In spite of this, says Dr Dominian, "marriage remains very solid. People still want companionship, friendship, security, love, children. A stable family and a good job are the two most important things in life."

So, any tips on how to find the right partner, and how to then stay married to them? One Plus One's thinking is that "it's not the compatibility that matters — what is important is how you handle your disagreements."

Phyllis Diller, disparagingly, compared marriage to a bath, because "once you get into it, it's not so hot". In fact, marriage is like a bath because the longer you are married to someone, the wrinklier your skin gets. If your skin grows wrinklier with the same person for 30 years, then you probably got into the right bath.

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TOMORROW

John Bayley on how a long and happy marriage to Iris Murdoch began after he saw her pedalling a bicycle past an Oxford college

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ POP

Right on with the voice of the Left: Billy Bragg agitates the Waterfront, Norwich

GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ MUSIC

Welcome to my town: Simon Rattle brings the Vienna Phil to Birmingham

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ OPERA

Angela Gheorghiu plays the coveted dame in *L'elisir d'amore* at Covent Garden

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ BOOKS

John Wayne and the myth of American manhood is examined in a fascinating new study

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

In the world of 45 revolutions per minute

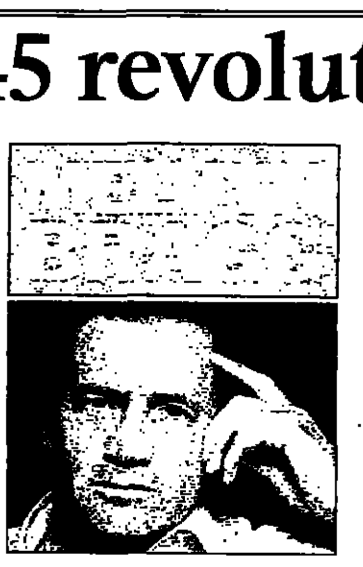
The buzz of the new was unmistakable. Odd to come across it in the banqueting room of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, deeply carpeted with rolling acres of corridors and overlooking Hyde Park. Odder still to find it at an awards ceremony, usually the occasion for a hearty celebration of the obvious. Oddest of all perhaps that this new buzz is connected with what are usually categorised as the most expendable: advertisements, music videos, the design of CDs — and of Internet websites, for goodness sake! But the buzz was certainly there at *Music Week*'s Creative and Design Awards. A new generation of British designers, artists and filmmakers has taken to conventionally unregarded areas in the arts and is coming up trumps.

It was seeing a concentration of the work that convinced me. This was not just the latest batch of new kids on the block who are turning up equally in pop music, in television and in poetry. There was a feeling that here was a particular platoon with a grip on the advanced information technologies which will make a huge impact in the next century — and they were playing with them. A rather fanciful analogy occurred to me with the late Victorian age, when Huxley's scientists and British engineers had the confidence to know that they were at a cutting edge, and revelled in it.

Certainly, at a time when universities are complaining about a decline in interest in science and engineering it's intriguing that young men and women have acquired highly complex communication skills which they use for trade and manufacturing and yet practise as an art form.

Perhaps the nature of the gathering itself gave a clue. Despite the starched white napkins and the usual speedy awards three-course meal and all the established paraphernalia of doing these things, this crowd was markedly different. It was substantially younger than most awardees. It was very casually dressed — or rather the male half was very casually dressed, although I am prepared to be told that the flapping shirts and general loose gear are in fact the giddy height of today's young male fashion. The female half was very smart but not Dressed Up For Awards smart. It was either Spice Girls out for fun or young career women in business.

Every runner-up and every winner was given a generous rousing bellow of appreciation from the committed tables. The speakers were brief, sotto voce and modest. The event of the evening came when one young winner held up his napkin and showed it around the room. He had written a proposal of marriage on it and he



was spotlighted back to his table where his bride-to-be (?) Sam was standing on the table — where else? — waiting for him.

Although the work done by these creative and design teams was deeply involved with British pop music, it seems to me that many of the awards winners had not only taken advantage of that, but used it for their own ends to develop their skills.

Although the videos, for instance, were inevitably short, the craft and vision that had gone into them came from the same impulses which will most probably take many of these young filmmakers into feature films and television. Tony Kearns, for example, who won the Best Editing in a Video category, spoke of his objective as "putting images on screen that bring out a sound or an instrument that maybe people have registered before, simply by hearing it". In short, adding his own dimension and making something new of it.

Chris Oddy, who did the art direction for the video for the Prodigy's No 1 single, *Breathe*, constructed four different decaying rooms in such a way that the director and cameraman could do the whole work in one day's shoot. That mix of intensity and economy is becoming more crucial in film and the expertise shown here was striking.

The two big winners of the evening were Jonathan Glazer and Mark Farrow. It came as no surprise to me that Glazer is now working on his first feature film. It is equally significant, I think, that although Farrow had a brief college background he began his career at the bottom of the pop and design industry and the client, the commission and the goods are an integral part of his creative thinking. There are some rather impressive precedents for that in art over the past few hundred years.

A final thought: that here was a tough, unsubsidised street-cred business and yet one which is of very high quality. It is driven by the same forces and instincts that drive all the other arts — which is no surprise. What was a surprise, though, was the amount of it, its confidence and the feeling that this mix of commerce and talent could be at a cutting edge.

When *The English Patient* was first published as a novel there was much praise and some talk of its difficulty. A few critics seemed to believe that its complexity kept it properly for the few. Here was a novel that proved that certain treats were, in the end, for small elites.

I find it a matter for celebration, therefore, that since the film came out the book is being read all over the place. It is being pored over by masses who might have been thought way outside its natural target audience. They seem to be having no difficulty with it. Perhaps there still is a Common Reader after all.

Once Moor with feeling

OPERA

Otello
Covent Garden

Verdi's setting of Shakespeare's tragedy opens with such an almighty wallop in the orchestra that it's all to easy to think of it as a relentlessly loud opera, vocally and orchestrally. But the score is littered with markings of dolcissimo and pianissimo, and one of the many pleasures of last Thursday's revival was the fineness and delicacy of so much of the singing and playing. This was very far from being a routine revival hurled onstage; it had been really carefully prepared.

In his UK operatic debut, the Korean conductor Myung-Whun Chung made his intentions plain at the very start: after the thunderclap at curtain-rise, orchestra and chorus were reduced to a thread of sound, doubling the excitement of the scene, and throughout Chung showed a fine ear for texture in a reading that was lithe and fleet of foot without sounding driven. Perhaps there were moments — the drinking song, the vengeance duet, that supremely painful duet for Otello and Desdemona in the third act — when one wanted a little more traditional weight of sound and phrase, but in general the performance made you think about the score afresh.

Vladimir Bogachov returned to the title role. He has all the notes, and the necessary ringing sound at the top, but it was his soft singing that impressed the most; he and his Desdemona, Kallen Esperian, sang the love duet with an easy lyricism that eludes so many more trumpety performers, and turned what can be something of a trial into an episode of genuinely Verdian beauty. Bogachov also has the elemental power of personality for the Moor, and his interpretation is free of any sense of artifice, which makes it all the more stirring. What you see is what you get.

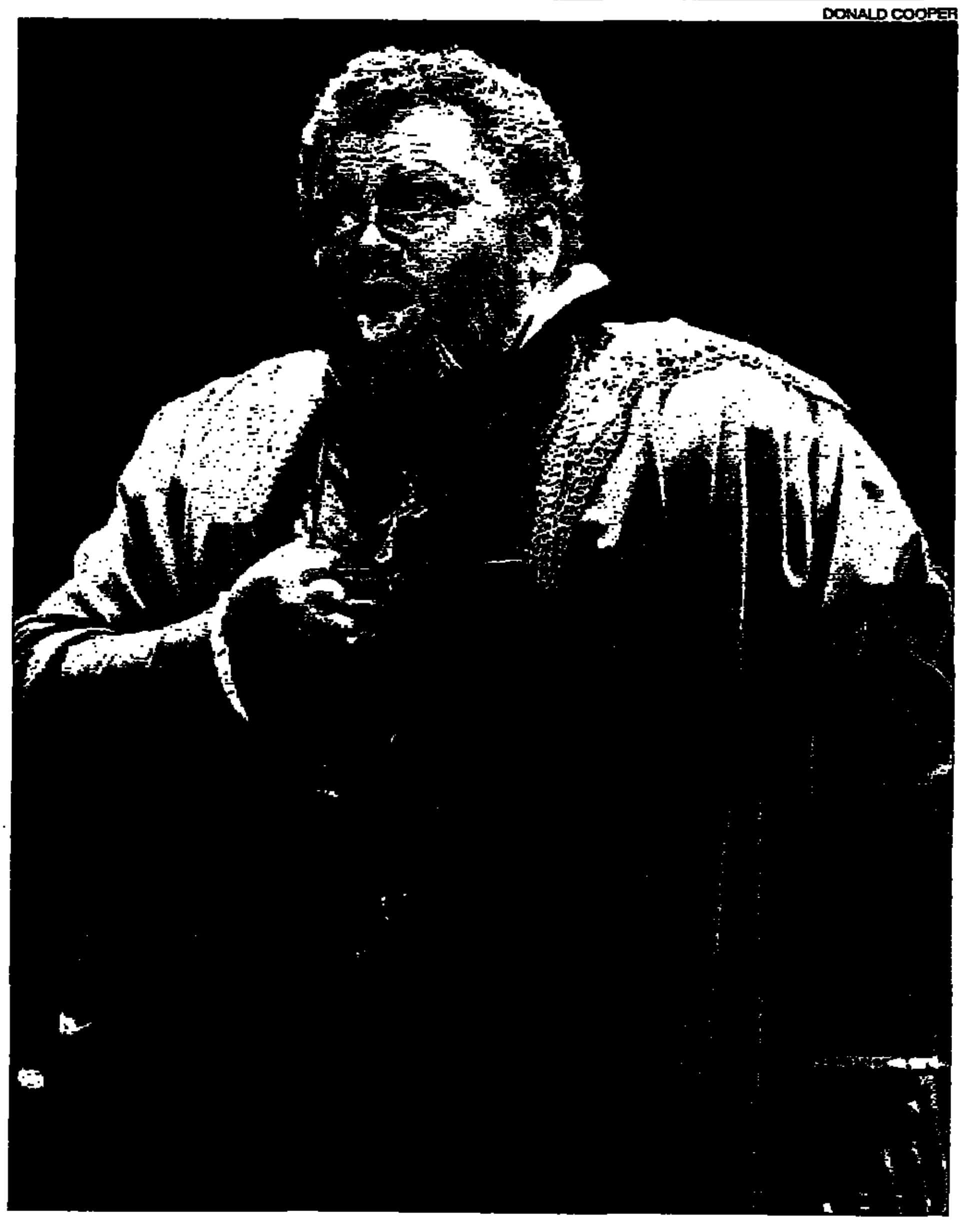
Esperian's beautifully soft-grained tone never loses its quality under pressure, and she can deliver long, long phrases on the breath. *The Willow Song* and *Ave Maria* — dolcissimo and pianissimo indeed — were ravishingly sung. Should Desdemona show more spirit, more vocal edge? Maybe, but I'll happily settle for Esperian's lyricism.

> ❛This was far from being a routine revival hurled onstage❜

After a jittery first act in his house debut, Paolo Gavanelli (Iago) whammed into the Credo, his warm yet incisive tone more closely focused than his pitching. Thereafter, it was his soft singing that gripped the imagination. He was a horribly plausible Iago, wide-eyed and innocent, so *onesto* that he too seemed to be believing the lies he was telling. Spooky.

Timothy O'Brien's Veronese-inspired sets wear well, and Elijah Moshinsky's production was safe in the hands of Richard Gregson. Supporting roles were all well taken, and, as indicated, the chorus and orchestra were at their most alert. All manner of clouds may be gathering around Covent Garden, but what happens on stage is still world-class.

RODNEY MILNES



DONALD COOPER

Strength in numbers: Vladimir Bogachov impresses as Otello in Verdi's opera

Sensual classics

JAZZ

Jobim Celebration
Barbican

ANYONE who had doubts about Antonio Carlos Jobim's place in the first rank of this century's songwriters would have had them resolved by this display. His music is to our era what George Gershwin's represented to an earlier generation.

Tribute concerts so often degenerate into parades of guest stars determined to impose their own ego on the proceedings. What made this latest instalment of the Jazz At The Barbican series so memorable was that the performers were clearly determined to allow the seductive melodies to speak for themselves.

Neither Jobim's guitar-playing son, Paulo, nor the cellist Jaques Morelenbaum could remotely be described as star names; but having played on so many of the composer's records, they carry the harmonies in their bloodstream. The same is true of Paula Morelenbaum, whose astonishingly pure vocals were never troubled by the idiosyncratic melodic twists and instrumental-like intervals.

With Jobim's grandson Daniel at the piano, and Marcos Feijao in charge of a minimalist drum kit, the acoustic quartet offered compelling chamber settings of *Double Rainbow* — something of a jazz standard now — and the less familiar contours of *Surfboard*.

As for the better-known songs, many are forever linked with the conversational delivery of João Gilberto. Both the younger Jobims were able to evoke the same, slightly nasal timbre, Paul Jobim poking gentle fun at himself during the rarely-heard verse to Gene Lees's English translation of *Desafinado*, that hypnotic love-letter.

The contrived rhymes of *Samba do Soho* represented one of the very few sub-standard items. For the rest, it was a matter of sitting back, a foolish grin on one's face, and marvelling at the fertility of Jobim's writing and the rhythmic verve of a group which relied on the most subtle of dynamics.

Tall and tanned, the *Girl From Ipanema* was bound to stroll by before the close, but the song was dispatched without fanfare, as if to emphasise that there was far more to its composer than slinky, sun-and-sand bossa nova. The austere, quasi-classical treatment of *Chora Coração*, arranged for cello, voice and piano, drove that point home long before the end.

CLIVE DAVIS

End of a tour and an era

POP

Erasure
Wembley Arena

WHEN Erasure entered the synth-pop arena in 1986, Heaven 17 were already old news. So the final night of Andy Bell and Vince Clarke's latest excursion provided an anachronistic pleasure as the earlier electronic warriors completed their first tour as the duo's special guests.

Clarke was a turn-of-the-Eighties contemporary of Heaven 17 as a founder member of Depeche Mode, and has outlasted them as the strong and silent partner in Erasure, while Bell consumes the camera as their camp focal point.

In their decade-plus together, Erasure have had best-selling albums in spades, including five consecutive number ones from 1988 to 1994, and 26 top 40 singles. But recent statistics suggest that the swingometer is edging in the opposite direction.

The memories were dutifully delivered with *A Little Respect* and Abba's *Take a Chance on Me* among the most warmly greeted. But in keeping with the swift commercial demise of their current tenth album, *Cowboy*, there was something humdrum in the delivery that came over as not just end-of-tour, but end-of-era.

One could not fault Bell's vocals nor the theatricality of the set, decked out as Deadwood Gulch with campfire, saloon and covered wagon. But the contrast between Bell's flouncy persona and Clarke's detachment brought an uneasy disparity.

So the lead singer played his usual Danny La Rue of pop while the "instrumentalist" tweaked the occasional knob on his synthesiser stack. Otherwise Clarke was an unintentionally comic spare part; even dressing him up as a cactus fell strangely flat.

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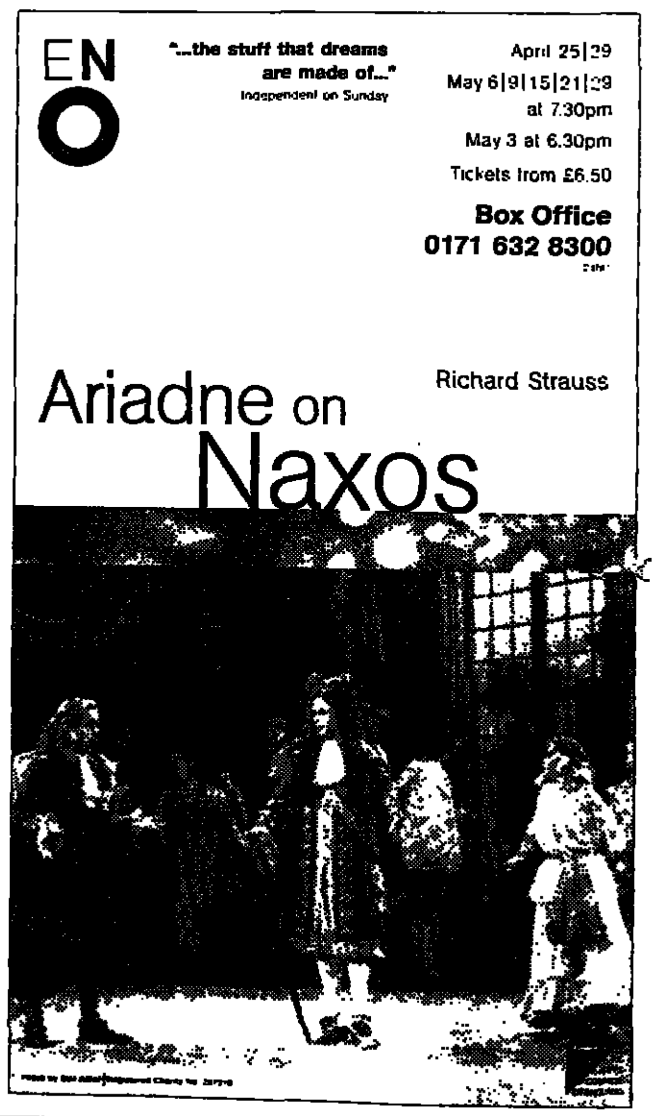

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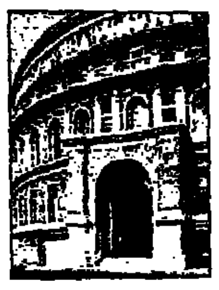

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The legend is back: Johnny Cash gives the old pipes a run-out at the Albert Hall

GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Queen of controlled chaos

THEATRE: Phyllida Lloyd, who thrives on danger, is about to direct Lorca at the Almeida. **Daniel Rosenthal** met her

As the first female associate director at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Phyllida Lloyd terrified some of the actors working with her on *Medea* and *The Winter's Tale*. Their fears, says Braham Murray, the Exchange's joint artistic director, had nothing to do with Lloyd's personality, which is "delightful and absolutely devoid of side", and everything to do with her methods.

She began rehearsing each play without a rigidly predetermined "vision", and invited the cast to keep contributing ideas until they were nearing the first performance. "The final synthesis happened very late," recalls Murray, "and some actors found that terrifying."

In the six years since Manchester, Lloyd's standing has soared, thanks to vibrant treatment of works as diverse as Britten's *Gloriana* and Terry Johnson's Freud-meets-Dali play, *Hysteria*; but time has not diminished her preference for collaboration amid what Murray calls "controlled chaos". Just days before her staging of Lorca's *Doña Rosita The Spinster* begins previewing at the Almeida Theatre, she calmly says: "We've got about 14 different productions going on at once."

Lloyd and Anthony Ward, the designer with whom she has worked "so often I've lost count", are tackling *Doña Rosita* for the second time. Equipped with a new translation by the playwright Peter Oswald, music by Gary Yershon, and choreography by Jonathan Lunn and Kathryn Hunter (who is also in the cast), they are fashioning an enterprise "completely different" from their 1989 production at the Bristol Old Vic.

Nonetheless, Lloyd remains just as daunted by the "abrupt, almost surreal juxtapositions" of linguistic and theatrical styles acknowledged in *Doña Rosita's* subtitle: *A poem ... with scenes of song and dance*. "When people think of Lorca they think of the mythic, ritualised peasant tragedy of *Yerma* or *Blood Wedding*," she says. "But *Doña Rosita* is written in a very different key and defies those expectations."

As Rosita (Phoebe Nicholls in the Almeida cast) retains a Penelope-like devotion to the fiancé who sails to Argentina in the first act, we move from 1890 to 1900 to 1910 without leaving the Granada garden obsessively tended by Rosita's uncle (Clive Swift). Rosita waits and withers, her aunt (Eleanor Bron) argues with their garrulous housekeeper (Celia Imrie), visitors come and go, naturalistic prose alternates with richly symbolic verse.

"It feels like music made up of extraordinarily diverse movements," says Lloyd. "At times, there is a lightness to the dialogue which is like Wilde, but the final moments resemble the last act of *The Cherry Orchard*. It's a huge challenge to find the essential rhythms within all of this.

"That's why plays are much more difficult to direct than operas. In opera, I have no control over where something begins and ends: the composer establishes the rhythm and the conductor establishes the tempi. I just have to decide how things happen between fixed points. With a play, you could make an infinite number of choices in determining the pause between two words."

Such generalisation might suggest that Lloyd is blasé about her work for Opera North, or the Verdi *Macbeth* which she and Ward will "unleash" on the Royal Opera in June. But she draws attention to the theatre-opera divide to point up "different disciplines", not greater rewards. Directing Josephine Barstow in *Gloriana* (which she hopes to film when it is revived in 1999) was as "thrilling" as anything she has done in the theatre, and she admits to "great trepidation" over the *Macbeth* that will mark her international opera debut.

Her first directorial credit of any kind came a little over 20 years ago, with a production at her boarding school in Malvern. At 18, she was determined to become an actress until her parents persuaded her to obtain a degree as an insurance policy against the habitual insecurities of Equity life.

"Reading drama at Birmingham University, I quickly realised I was not a good enough actress," she recalls. "Nor did I have the tenacity to withstand the repeated rejections that actors face."

After directing student productions, she stayed in Birmingham, working as a floor assistant and then assistant floor manager at BBC Television. But the prospect of following what she guessed would be a ten-year path to TV directing proved unbearable for a woman still obsessed by the stage. With a scrounged £800 she directed a pub production which led to her first paid directing assignment, at the Swan Theatre, Worcester, and she gave *Auntie notice*. Her parents thought she was mad.

From Worcester she went to the Wolsey, Ipswich, and then the Everyman, Cheltenham, for a "six-plays-a-year baptism of fire that taught me how to manoeuvre people and language in everything from Shakespeare to Ayckbourn". By the time Murray offered her the Manchester job after seeing her "superlative" Bristol production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, she was being mentioned alongside Deborah Warner as "one of Britain's best woman directors".

Her response to that implicitly chauvinist label is philosophical: "I'm very lucky to be mentioned in those terms, but *I don't think of* myself as a woman director." She is constantly aware, however, that as a director she can look forward to a longer career than she might have had as an actress. "Actresses face the fearful prospect of becoming unemployable as they lose their looks. As long as I keep my wits, I hope I'll direct for as long as possible — and that I'll get *better*."

● Doña Rosita *previews at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, from Wednesday (0171-359 4404)*

ROBIN MAYES

Phyllida Lloyd: "Plays are much more difficult to direct than operas. With a play, you have choices"

LONDON CONCERTS

Slow but steady

Swedish RSO/Kamu
Festival Hall

Esa-Pekka Salonen is handing over his superbly schooled Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra to Yevgeny Svetlanov from next season and, at the start of their English tour (Newcastle on Friday, Birmingham on Saturday), the band signed on with a tribute to their outgoing chief in a robust performance of Sibelius's *Karelia Suite*; and they signed off, in Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, with a salute to their principal conductor-elect.

Okko Kamu, principal conductor at Finnish National Opera, is meanwhile on the podium for this tour, and his deep understanding of the human voice, Sweden's strongest musical calling-card in this last half-century, galvanised the evening's central performance of ten songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

Two young Swedish singers brought their folk-cameos to fresh life. Mezzo Anna Larsson, just two years out of college, progressed from a courageous but still under-projected *Urlicht* to *Rheinlegendchen* and *Das irdische Leben*. And baritone Peter Mattei, considerably more experienced and already with a formidably expressive vocal technique, moved compellingly from a bumpkin of a storyteller in St Anthony's sermon to the fishes, to an increasingly steely and embittered observer of war and the pity of war in *Reveille* and *Der Tamboursg'sell*.

Some speeds in the Mahler hovered on the edge of being dangerously slow for both Larsson and her orchestral accompanists. And it was the somewhat safe, sturdy tempo relationships in the Tchaikovsky which reined in the passion, and made this a circumspect, albeit noble and rigorously disciplined performance.

The SRSO's strings play with a lustrous, compact unanimity. This quality, together with the strong character of each woodwind principal, ensured that Kamu could build and sustain many a good head of steam. The climaxes of the second movement and the ferocity of the final march were admirably achieved: all the performance needed was a more acute sense of the symphony's nervous system, and a longer and more fearless look into its own heart of darkness.

HILARY FINCH

90-second wonder

Guildhall String Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

A world premiere of a work by Diana Burrell is guaranteed to whet the appetite of audience and critic alike. Alas, no one had told us that the piece opening the second concert of the Guildhall Strings' fifteenth Anniversary Series was to be even less than an hors d'oeuvre — more like a vol-au-vent. Lasting a mere 90 seconds, it was here one minute, gone the next. At least we know what to expect from John McCabe's commission on Friday entitled *Six-Minute Symphony*.

When the Burrell was repeated after the interval (in response to audience demand, we were told) there was a chance to absorb the notion that the title, *Gate*, suggests entry to what lies beyond. Now tremulous, now assertive, the piece represents a portal to the other items to be heard. There are few clues to what lies in store, however: the gate stands wide open.

What in fact followed was a nicely devised programme combining three works by Bach with two by Panufnik. I would question, though, whether the Guildhall Strings are wise to give such prominence to Baroque music. The problem is not that they play on modern instruments, but that there is insufficient collective understanding of how such music should go.

The Third Brandenburg and the fugal section of the B Minor Suite's Ouverture were fleet but accented evenly and heavily. Experience with period instruments should have shown how accents need to be finely calibrated, how lines are shaped by variety of articulation and attack and decay on gut strings. But there was little sense of any of that here.

The flautist Emily Beynon, principal with the Royal Concertgebouw, brought some sense of style, and Paul Nicholson's harpsichord playing was exemplary — his cadenza in the Fifth Brandenburg outstanding.

With its overlapping layers and shifts of perspective, Panufnik's *Landscape* depicts a landscape of the mind, but it also reflects the composer's appreciation of Bach's "geometric structures". Panufnik's *Hommage à Chopin* has two especially evocative movements, the first and last, in which the poignant dissonances were lightly touched in by the ensemble, and Beynon's mellifluous tone was heard to admirable effect.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Europe is rooting for Blair

Michael Butler says our partners want to negotiate reasonably

There are many good reasons for voting Labour in the election. Britain needs a change. In a democracy no single party should remain too long in power. The Tories are quarrelling among themselves. Above all, their policies on Europe have become increasingly damaging both to the national interest and to the efficient conduct of business in the EU.

More and more, the Conservatives have been addressing their internal problems rather than trying to deal effectively with the issues of national importance with which they are faced in the EU Council and at the inter-governmental conference on treaty amendment. They made a complete hash of the BSE crisis, vetoing proposals they had previously worked hard to have adopted, irritating other EU governments to the point of wanting to do us down and failing totally to have the beef ban lifted. In the inter-governmental conference they have sought to placate their own Eurosceptics by striking intransigent postures while letting Britain's interests go unrepresented. If they were returned to power and continued as before, Britain would find itself left out of more and more important decisions, until our membership ceased to have any value.

Promoting and protecting British interests in the EU is too important for party political games. We have to learn to work with rather than against our European partners. We have to seek allies in support of our proposals. John Major's Government has failed in this respect. I have been involved at almost every stage of our policy in Europe since 1961, and no previous British government has been held in such contempt.

As an adviser to Labour on European policy, I have been talking privately to representatives of most of the EU governments over the past few months. No other British government has ever, even during Labour's "renegotiation" in 1974-75 or Margaret Thatcher's budget refund campaign in the early 1980s, been in a position in which no other government was willing to give it any support at all.

The other governments know very well that Tony Blair and his colleagues will promote and protect the national interest with determination, but they do not expect ideological anti-European attitudes to prevail in the Labour Party, or the sort of divisions that have disfigured the Conservative Party. I myself have talked often enough with Robin Cook to know that he will deal with the host of difficult issues which the Tories will bequeath to him in a moderate and reasonable way. Labour will want Britain to start winning a few rounds in Brussels.

The Eurosceptic myths are too vague to be easy to deal with. Significant numbers of Tories seem genuinely, indeed passionately, to believe that the EU is threatening the British way of life, that Chancellor Kohl is the new Bismarck, and that Germany is about to abolish British sovereignty by EU means, having failed to do so by force of arms. They dismiss with contempt the thought that the EU provides reassurance that Western Europe countries will never fight each other again. Their hostility to other Europeans is such that they seem completely oblivious to the fact that the countries that make up the EU are all free democracies which have chosen to work together for the common good.

Eurosceptic Conservative backbenchers belittle our European trade — even though we export more to The Netherlands than to all the Asian tigers put together. They also fail to realise that we have given up more sovereignty by becoming dependent on the Americans in Nato than by signing the Treaty of Maastricht. Their judgment is distorted by prejudice and fear, and their controlling influence over national policy has been deeply damaging to Britain.

The other EU governments are well informed by their embassies in London. They do not expect a Blair government to be a pushover — they have seen how firmly he has acted to reform his party — but they do expect Labour ministers to be reasonable men and women seeking agreements that protect British interests. I have been able to tell them with complete conviction that their expectation is correct. I appeal to my fellow citizens who want Britain to succeed in Europe to join me in voting Labour.

Sir Michael Butler was Britain's Permanent Representative to the EC, 1979-85.

Apathy may lead to a low turnout this time, but the young generation is enterprising and promising

Fife is marching to a different drum

William Rees-Mogg

We canvassed a thousand houses in the Central Fife constituency on Saturday. In all, about 7,500 have been canvassed so far, and the plan is to get over the half-way mark before polling day. There are about 25,000 houses in the constituency. As the Conservatives run third to Labour and the SNP, this will be no small achievement. My younger son, Jacob, is fighting Central Fife as though it were a marginal, which it certainly is not.

There were 18 canvassers on Saturday, a mixed collection of local activists, family — Annunziata interrupted her A-level revision to come up here — Jacob's friends from London and Hong Kong, and students from Edinburgh University. Jacob is much teased by the left-wing press because he has the support of his nanny, Veronica Crook, who has been with us for more than 30 years. In fact, she proves to be the star canvasser, quick, friendly, tackling Glenrothes new town as though she were visiting neighbours in the Somerset village of Rington. She even handles repartee on the doorstep. "He's nae a Scot" — "No Scot put in for it."

The canvass leaves little doubt about the result. As in 1992, Labour will win comfortably, the SNP will be the main challenger; there are Conservatives about, but not enough of them. On Saturday none of the canvassers came across a single Liberal voter; the only Referendum Party supporters we saw were the candidate and his agent, who were leafleting Leven High Street at the same time as we were. I felt sheepish handing out Conservative leaflets outside Boots; I partially saved my status as a journalist and a Lords cross-bencher by refraining from wearing a rosette. My leafleting is in any case far too tentative; eventually I bought a copy of *The Big Issue* and gave the vendor a leaflet in exchange.

We start the day canvassing in Macedonia, a district of Glenrothes that is reached via St Columbus roundabout. Glenrothes has more roundabouts and humps in the road than any other town I have ever been in. They are designed to frustrate canvassers as well as motorists. The street plan looks like one of those mazes which used to be published in comics for little children. We fan out; I accompany Jacob, who is also accompanied by a *Daily Telegraph* correspondent and a photographer. Some of the soundbites have reached Glenrothes. "I'm on the dole, but I wouldn't vote for phony Tony."

Jacob strides ahead. I find another Tory. She is a Londoner, a grandmother who has moved to Glenrothes to be close to her grandchildren. "I'd never vote Labour after living under Hammersmith Council." She says she is a refugee from Ken Livingstone. Jacob is talking to a wavering voter, who voted Tory last time. In voting terms, this is the main value of canvassing; it reconfirms supporters who have become doubtful. In political terms it has an even greater value in letting the candidates meet live opinions. People tell us that no party has canvassed them personally in years. One old lady complains that she has been canvassed by telephone; she does not know which party did it, for she put down the receiver, but she thinks it is an extravagant waste of money.

At dinner, when we are discussing the day's experience, it is the negatives that stand out. The biggest, and most worrying, is the feeling of apathy, bordering on resentment, of many of the voters. "They're all the same . . . They've never done anything for me . . . It won't make any difference . . . I never have anything to do with politics . . . I'm not going to vote." This election may prove to be the event which politicians have always feared, a protest general election; some of the blame for these public resentments inevitably falls on the government of the day, but much of it falls on politics and politicians as such. I fear there may be a low poll throughout the country.

The second big negative is Tony Blair's image. Presumably Henry McLeish, the Labour candidate, speaks enthusiastically of him, but so far the only other person I have heard do so is myself. I told an evening meeting in the Victoria Hall that I thought he was "open, intelligent and courageous", though I went on to say I thought he was a Tory. The next warmest support for him was one woman who said she was going to vote "for Tony Blair". Otherwise in Central Fife he is a non-person. Most of the Labour voters are voting Labour because that is their party. Central Fife has inherited a solid Scottish Labour culture from the days before 1914, when the young men went down the pits to dig coal for the Balfour family. Here "new Labour" means nothing at all. It is a London event.

The biggest negative of all is the SNP. They are not, I think, greatly improving their position in Central Fife, though they have a good candidate. Like most Englishmen I have a sympathy with traditional Scottish nationalism, though my one notable Scottish ancestor, Andrew Henderson, supported the Hanoverians against Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, as many Scottish patriots did. The SNP has, however, now moved to the left; of the four parties in Scotland, the Conservatives are furthest to the right, then comes Labour, then the Liberal Democrats, and the SNP are on the left wing. They advocate a so-called independent Scotland inside what would have to be a federal regional Europe. That would transfer power from London to Brussels, and from democracy to bureaucracy. In fact, they make much more sense in a Westminster studio than they do on the ground in Scotland.

Another negative is the electorate's lack of interest in foreign affairs. Jacob's canvassers are a cosmopolitan group. A Danish visitor observes that Fife feels more like Denmark than England does. The Hong Kong friends discuss the future of China; they admire Chris Patten — if you hear "the Governor" mentioned in the bar of the Laurel Bank Hotel, it is Governor Patten they are talking about — and they drink confusion to Sir Percy Cradock in a wide selection of single malts. Apart from Europe, no one has heard a single reference to foreign policy on the doorstep.

Europe is a real issue, perhaps the only issue which is getting through the apathy. The voters of Central Fife are, so far as I can judge, predominantly Eurosceptic. The Referendum Party agent finds that SNP supporters are his best converts, once they discover that the SNP is not an independence party, but a Euro-federalist one. The decision of John Major to allow a free vote in Parliament on the single currency appears on the doorstep to be not a blunder, but the best decision he has made in this campaign. He has freed Tory candidates to say what they really think without feeling disloyal; voters are more impressed by the fresh air of honest opinions than by the breakdown of party discipline.

In the end, I feel heartened by the canvassing group as much as by the results they are achieving. All of those who have come to support Jacob from outside the constituency, apart from Veronica and his parents, are aged between 18 and 28. Few of them have political ambitions themselves. They are all global in their viewpoint. They see Europe as only one part of the bigger world. They are not aggressively right-wing. Their personal causes include such issues as the international prevention of torture; they feel strongly about the future of Bosnia and Tibet. They believe in open markets because they have worked in them. First-year students at Edinburgh University, reading hard subjects such as mechanical engineering, give up a day to canvass Central Fife. That must be good news for the future health of British politics.

From what I see of them, as the friends of my children, this British generation of the 1990s is proving an exceptionally good one. They have an openness and courage that are very attractive. They are prepared to work and are realistic. They see the new opportunities of the world, but have compassion for its suffering. A Tory party that can appeal to their idealism will recover from any defeat.

And tomorrow, the world

Peter Riddell asks whether Tony Blair's globalism means betraying old supporters

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Tony Blair is now in the paradoxical position of a general on the brink of a triumph which many of his troops regard as hollow. On May 1, Labour should win only the third decisive election victory in its history, after 1945 and 1966. But many of Labour's traditional supporters, as opposed to the Blairite vanguard, are more enthusiastic about getting rid of the Tories than about what a "new" Labour government might achieve.

Polls suggest that turnout may be well down in safe Labour seats, while several candidates defending big majorities report a flat response, especially from older voters on council estates. This is apart from the ambivalent attitude towards Blairism of union leaders (as at the Scottish TUC this week) and the disillusionment of many Labour intellectuals that Robert Taylor reports in the current *Spectator*. Of course, many of the intellectuals are relics of the battles of the 1960s and 1970s who have never understood why Labour lost in the 1980s, or former Marxists who have embraced Labour modernisation as the only hope for the Left. Others accept the demise of "old" Labour, but wonder whether "new" Labour is any more than effective campaigning tactics masking shallow populism. American observers like Joe Klein have been quick to draw unflattering parallels with Bill Clinton.

Their doubts contrast with the enthusiasm that Labour generated in 1945 and in 1964-66. In the war years up to 1945, a broad consensus in favour of extensive social reform and public ownership had been established, in part by Labour members of the wartime coalition, who went on to dominate the Attlee Government. In the mid 1960s, Harold Wilson skilfully identified with, and exploited, a revolt against an "old school tie" regime, as he called it, and in favour of more active government and intervention in the economy. This enthusiasm barely outlasted Labour's landslide win in 1966 before disenchantment set in.

The mood now is less clearcut. Many left-wing intellectuals and traditional Labour supporters reject the free market approach of the Thatcher and Major years, and want to return to progressive taxation and higher public spending. But Mr Blair and his allies do not. They have rejected redistribution through the tax system and embraced international capitalism. Indeed, the distinctive feature of Mr Blair's approach, as of Mr Clinton's, is its explicit acceptance of globalisation: free trade and markets, deregulation, tight fiscal and monetary policy and limits on levels of taxation.

The desirability of globalisation is being challenged on the American Left in new books by Robert Kuttner and William Greider (as well as in an article entitled "The Capitalist Threat" by that ubiquitous trendsetter George Soros). Dick Gephardt, minority leader in the House and a strong runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, has also raised his standard on this ground, arguing for environmental and labour safeguards in any new free trade deals.

In Britain, this argument has been less prominent, though it has been echoed in the elegant critiques of the political philosopher John Gray and in the more rumbustious polemics of the journalist Will Hutton. The latter's sweeping denunciations of British finance and industry for short-termism have been widely attacked as exaggerated and flawed, but have been influential among the less sophisticated on the Left. Hutton has offered an alternative programme based on constitutional reform and the continental (or "Rhenish") model of social and industrial partnership under the doctrine of "stakeholding", partially qualified in his new book, *The State to Come*.

Mr Blair appeared for a time to be veering in this direction when he emphasised the term "stakeholding" in big speeches in January last year, in Tokyo and Singapore. But his advisers quickly made clear that he did not endorse the kinds of changes to the legal structure of companies envisaged by Hutton and opposed by the CBI and others. Stakeholding was presented as merely an umbrella term for social inclusiveness, rather than a specific programme.

However, Tory policymakers such as David Willetts argue that "new" Labour has embraced a discredited continental approach (as opposed to the successful Anglo-American version) which risks giving the unions more power, adding to industrial costs and undermining Britain's competitiveness. Mr Blair has argued that signing the social chapter merely means minimum acceptable standards at the workplace, and that other European countries now reject the ambitious Delors vision and oppose new directives that would raise business costs.

But if Blairism does not involve a radical restructuring of captalism, and accepts the Anglo-American model, is it any more than Majorism with softer edges? Many previously sympathetic left-wing intellectuals now argue that a Blair administration would have no ideological roots and could quickly lose support. But Blairism does represent a new approach, possibly the only one available for a centre-left party now. Like Mr Clinton, Mr Blair argues that the job of centre-left governments is to enable ordinary people to benefit, rather than suffer, from the economic and social changes produced by globalisation. In his City speech two weeks ago, he developed what he called "flexibility plus": building on flexible labour markets with welfare reform, a greater emphasis on education and job training to equip people with the necessary skills, and investment in infrastructure, science and research.

That is, of course, straight Bill Clinton. But as Robert Reich, the Labor Secretary in the first Clinton term, argues in his memoir *Locked in the Cabinet*, extra funding for education and training immediately became a victim of the pressures of financial markets and the need to reduce the budget deficit. Labour has tried to avoid this problem by avoiding the promises of higher spending that Mr Clinton made in 1992, and by accepting tight expenditure restraints from the start. The only pledge of substance from Labour has been to take 250,000 young unemployed off the dole, but this is being financed through the one-off windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

Mr Blair is relying on a shift of spending from welfare to education, but this will take time. So it is hard to see how "flexiblity plus" can be turned into reality without raising taxes, or accepting more private provision. Labour's policies and scaremongering campaign rhetoric on health and social security are inconsistent without extra spending.

Of course, much will look different in two weeks' time if Labour has a clear Commons majority. However limited the pledges, and however low the expectations, there will be a new beginning. There will be a sense of excitement, and probably much hot air about a new "Camelot". While it may be largely Tory measures, Labour men and women will bring a fresh approach.

Mr Blair has played safe so far in the campaign, understandably in view of Labour's huge poll lead. A rare exception was last Thursday in Edinburgh, when he delivered a rousing speech to the faithful, but emphasising mainly the "old" Labour verities rather than the "new" Labour arguments. Mr Blair now needs to show where and how Labour could really make a difference, how it could transcend the spending and tax constraints set by the Tories. Can a centre-left party make a success of free market capitalism without betraying its supporters?

THE TIMES DIARY

Blarney II

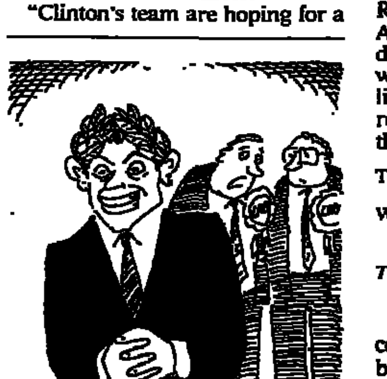
HILLARY CLINTON is hoping to visit Ireland later this year without her husband. She came in 1995 with the President during the IRA ceasefire. So impressed was she by what she saw that she wants to come back, taking in both Ulster and the Republic on her trip.

The atmosphere of any visit will be very different to her husband's euphoric tour when the guns were silent and he could speak hopefully of the path to peace. She will stick to the usual First Lady round of school and hospital visits, avoiding anything like the staged surprise meeting between the President and Gerry Adams outside a Belfast bakery.

"A visit from her will show that the President still cares about Ireland even after his re-election," says one prominent Washington Irishman. "But it will avoid any of the political awkwardnesses of a full presidential tour."

Not that the Administration has ever shown much regard for John Major's policy towards Ireland, having gone so far as to issue visas to Sinn Fein men against the express wishes of the Foreign and Northern Ireland Offices.

"Clinton's team are hoping for a Labour victory, not just because many of them are friends with Blair's advisers, but also because it will be easier for them to get involved in Ireland. Mrs Clinton's visit is just one part of that."



"I thought adopting the purple was going too far"

Latin gags

RESULTS are in for the Classical Association's limerick contest. Readers of the Class. Ass. magazine were given the first two lines of two limericks and had to complete the rest. H.H. Huxley came up with this for the first one:

There were two young girls in the Scillies
Who cut up *The Times* for their frillies.
To have used *The Express*
Would show poor sense of dress.
Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in illis.

There were even more entries completing the limerick which began: "There was a young girl of Naupactus / Who had an affair with a cactus." Sadly they must remain confined to the top shelf.

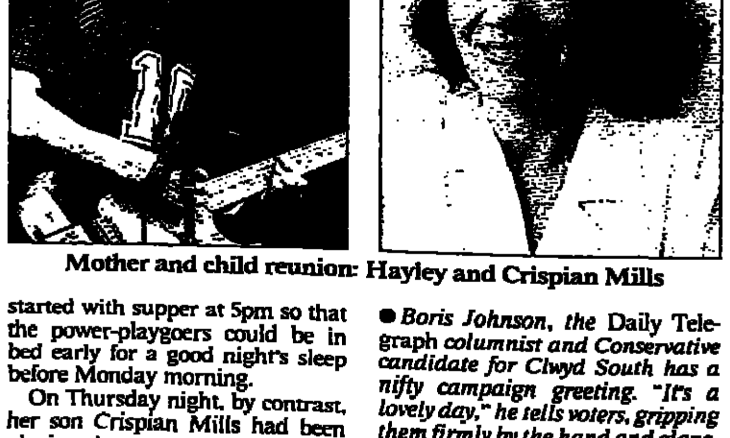
● *Professionalism has brought bunny girls to rugby union. One player who recently visited Bedford, in the second division, reports: "You come storming out ready to play, and there on either side of the players' tunnel are two chesty girls in skimpy T-shirts and shorts. I mean, you want to stop and say hello, not go and play rugby. It's a low-down, dirty tactic."*

Non-event

ALREADY widely suspected as the man who shopped Will Self for snorting heroin on the Prime Minister's plane, Simon Walters, the political editor of *The Express on Sunday* found himself handbagged by Tony Blair the other day.

For months he had been badgering Blair for an interview. Finally, last week, Blair's press secretary suddenly succumbed to one of his routine requests: "Yeah, you can speak to him *now*."

While notepads were flying at the *Express*, Blair came on the phone. "This is total guff", "Come off it!", "Complete nonsense", "Rubbish!", "Let's not be silly", "Ha!", "Utter tosh" and "I wasn't born yesterday" were just some of Blair's replies to the impromtu questioning, printed yesterday. "I think we're going round in circles," concluded Blair. "No we're not," pleaded Walters, at which point the long-sought interview ends.



Mother and child reunion: Hayley and Crispian Mills

Star turns

WASHINGTON D.C. has had a double dose of the Mills family this week. Yesterday evening, Hayley Mills, daughter of Sir John, performed for the capital's black-tied swingers in a gala performance of *The King and I* at the Kennedy Centre. Typical of the way they do things in Washington, the evening started with supper at 5pm so that the power-playgoers could be in bed early for a good night's sleep before Monday morning.

On Thursday night, by contrast, her son Crispian Mills had been playing downtown at the hip 9:30 Club with his rock band, Kula Shaker. Like all good long-haired pop stars, Crispian made sure he found time to see his mother.

● *Boris Johnson, the* Daily Telegraph *columnist and Conservative candidate for Clwyd South has a nifty campaign greeting. "It's a lovely day," he tells voters, gripping them firmly by the hand and glancing skywards. "Don't let Labour spoil it."*

P·H·S

UNIONS PAST

The test for Labour from labour has yet to come

From the braziers of Basildon to the serried ranks of Scotland's shop stewards the weekend's broadcast images have brought encouragement for the Tories. Party leaders have tried to exploit the Essex firemen's strike and the Scottish TUC's centenary congress to rekindle fears of a brush fire of union activism should Labour win on May Day. Unhelpful as the pictures may be for Tony Blair, the election of a Labour government should not, however, mean a trip down Militant's memory lane. The changes wrought in the Labour Party, and to a lesser extent in the union movement, suggest there will be no turning back to the days of Social Contract and Solomon Binding.

Both David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary, and John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, have made it clear that beer and sandwiches will be off the Downing Street menu. Many of Labour's employment policies still fall far short of a workers' wish list. The adoption of the social chapter, the embrace of a minimum wage and plans for compulsory union recognition do not sit comfortably with new Labour's commitment to enterprise. But, as Mr Monks argued yesterday, they do not amount to a Faustian pact.

Many of the rank and file have unfulfillable expectations of a Labour government. There will be early attempts by some workers, particularly in the public sector, to flex dormant muscles after 18 years in opposition. Mr Blair will need to show iron resolve in facing down his own supporters if his ambitions are not to be thwarted. He has stated as clearly as possible his determination to do that.

Mr Blunkett dismissed the relevance to Labour's policies of this year's STUC motions by arguing that "nothing that may be said or passed at a conference held by a separate organisation will affect them in the slightest". His words reflected not just the constitutional position of the STUC, but also the party's determination to distance itself from the movement that gave it birth.

The launch of Labour's business manifesto, the prominence accorded entrepreneurs in party election broadcasts and the incantation of "fairness not favours" underline the party's estrangement from its roots. Indeed Labour's process of distancing itself from the unions is still not complete. If in government, Labour will set its minimum wage in alliance with employers and it proposes further to marginalise the unions with an internal reorganisation that will take power away from Conference and centralise it in the hands of the leader.

Conscious of the party's intention to move from amicable separation to divorce, the union movement has been preparing for a new relationship. The TUC leadership's past pretensions to partnership in government have been replaced with a new emphasis on providing services in the workplace.

Many of their older members, however, have been slow to adapt. For workers in the state sector there is still a belief that Christmas will come on May 2 this year. Gordon Brown has stressed that there will be no extra money available but that will not prevent activists attempting to call his bluff. The firemen's strike in Essex and the recent teacher's dispute in Glasgow are the first sling-shots for what could become a fusillade of pay claims.

Although a Labour government might have much early goodwill, that could soon dissipate if it has to say no, no, no to teachers, firemen and nurses. But it must stand firm if it is not to see its room for manoeuvre and the nation's finances squandered. Rather than indulging the unions' fantasies, a Labour government should embrace market disciplines to deliver services efficiently. It will not be easy. There may be many more braziers lit and angry motions passed before Labour proves itself fully worthy of the trust it is asking from new voters.

KINGS OF THE BALKANS

Former monarchs see new roles for themselves

Towering over his would-be subjects, Leka Zog, son of modern Albania's eccentric first king, was yesterday given a tumultuous welcome by tens of thousands of supporters as he visited the village where his father was born just over a century ago. The pretender, who has spent all but the first two days of his life in exile, was making a triumphant visit to his turbulent homeland, greeted with fierce clan loyalty that appeared undiminished by more than 40 years of communism. Meanwhile, former King Simeon of Bulgaria was yesterday celebrating the strong showing of monarchists in his country's weekend general election. And former King Michael of Romania, fresh from an emotional return to the country over which he ruled for several crucial years before being forced into exile half a century ago, is now an official emissary, a persuasive advocate of early entry for Romania into Nato.

Monarchy, it seems, has never been as popular in the Balkans. The three pretenders are presenting themselves as unifying figures at a time of economic and political turbulence. After the collapse of communism, all were rebuffed in their initial attempts to reclaim their thrones. But all have recently stirred a new interest in their homelands. Monarchist parties have been formed, crowds have mobbed the men once reviled as relics of a bourgeois past, and politicians have been eager to invoke their aura and overseas prestige.

Leka Zog is probably the most improbable contender. His father was a tribal chieftain, who proclaimed himself King in 1928 and ruled for only 11 years. His son, whisked out of the country as the Italians invaded, has spent much of his life in South Africa. He has returned at a time of extraordinary upheaval, and though Albanians are now hailing him as a saviour who will rescue them from penury and feuding, few know much about him. He is posing as king of all Albanians, including those who live across the frontier in Kosovo — a nationalist appeal bound to stir up trouble in Serbia and Macedonia. And he is in danger of being used by anti-Berisha forces, including the former communists, simply as a way of ousting a President most southerners now regard as anathema.

Former King Simeon has a more solid basis of support. Bulgarians, like Albanians, are going through a period of enormous hardship, but unlike their Balkan neighbours are not torn asunder by tribal enmity. The electoral victory of the Union of Democratic Forces at the weekend, expected after the incompetence of the socialist Government, does not guarantee any swift improvement in Bulgaria's parlous economy. But it does place reform firmly back on track. Many UDF supporters have backed the restoration of the king, as has the monarchist party that polled some 8 per cent. But most Bulgarians recognise that a pivotal role is now being played by President Stoyanov; few are willing to jeopardise his position for the sake of historic sentiment.

Perhaps the most revered of the three is former King Michael, a man whose own courage in dismissing the pro-fascist Government during the war and resisting the communists have won him enduring respect. Despite his advancing years, he is energetically promoting his country's case to Nato. He too is unlikely to supplant President Constantinescu, who has already done much to consolidate democracy. But the former King's new official role is a likely first step towards a permanent return. Stability, continuity and a peaceful focus for national ideals are desperately needed in the Balkans at present. The three men, even if they do not ascend the throne, can still do much to help their struggling countries.

AND IN COMING MILLENNIA

A warm spell followed by a cold snap

For most of us, long-range-weather forecasting concerns whether or not it will rain this Thursday. Clare Goodess and Jean Palutikof of the Climatic Research Union at the University of East Anglia see somewhat further ahead, predicting Britain's weather for the next 120,000 years.

At one level, of course, this should not prove difficult: it will always rain when England threaten to win a Test match but never when defeat is imminent. At another, this is the triumph of optimism over experience. The good doctors admit as much when they acknowledge that their findings "invite derision". Some might suggest this is the point where meteorology becomes astrology with isobars.

Yet what they outline is important. Global warming is a serious phenomenon. It will last at least 1000 years and possibly 10,000 years. The water level will be raised and low-lying areas of Britain will be flooded. This might cast some doubt on the wisdom of locating the Climate Research Unit in East Anglia.

After that, there will be a period of relative stability rather similar to the weather we have enjoyed in recent years. Unfortunately, this will be little more than a temporary interlude; for 70,000 years after that, conditions akin to the Ice Age will predominate. Virtually all of northern England will be uninhabitable. That means at some point it should be possible to prevent Manchester United winning the league title.

Such prophecy might seem stark. But it at least reflects the British tradition of compromise. In the 1960s, excessive rain across the planet was the theory of the moment. By the 1970s, scientific opinion strongly inclined to a new ice age. Come the 1980s, a spectacular U-turn had been executed and global warming was all the fashion. Now, a pleasing middle ground has been found: a warm spell followed by a cold snap. All sides can be satisfied.

One or two passionate souls have suggested that all this is irrelevant. Why should any of us, on Earth now, be remotely bothered about the climate several thousand years hence? This shows an appalling absence of community spirit. According to the academics, the future Ice Age would be much worse were it not for the present trend towards global warming. That tendency, we are constantly told, is due to man's misuse of his environment. On that basis, if we were only more irresponsible, we could raise short-term temperatures, ensuring that every spring was as mild and magnificent as this one and still save our successors from excessive cold in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Prejudice' and the debate on Europe

From Lord Howell, PC

Sir, It is always deplorable when prejudice is elevated into a virtue. Where that occurs in an election campaign for the purpose of vote-winning, irrespective of the likely damage to the economic interests of British industry or the political interests of our country, then it would be disastrous if it succeeds.

What sort of reception in Europe does John Major expect to find if he returns there as Prime Minister (reports, April 19)? He is piling insult upon insult towards our partners in Europe, disgracefully trying to inject them into the general election campaign as some sort of demons, at war with British interests.

All decisions taken by the heads of Government have to be negotiated. Where does he expect to find a single country ready to negotiate to our advantage as a result of this tirade?

And then, in the aftermath of this political disaster, how does he believe that this will serve the interests of our economy and British industry? Inward investment by companies wishing to establish themselves here as a base from which they can sell to Europe will be undermined. The 60 per cent of our industrial productivity now going to Europe will be put severely at risk, threatening industrial and job security.

There was a time when political leaders always put the national interest before party interest in their statesmanship. The prospect of electoral defeat is no excuse for the Prime Minister to desert these principles.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS HOWELL
(President,
Labour Movement in Europe),
House of Lords.
April 20.

From Mr E. C. Robinson

Sir, Dame Angela Rumbold and the more than 200 so-called Tory "rebel" MPs are widely criticised for forcing Europe to the forefront of the election campaign at the expense of party unity.

To the contrary, they have done great service to the cause of democracy by refusing to ignore a major concern of ordinary voters who, by intellect and instinct, sense that Britain is approaching one of the defining moments in its history.

The real shame should be borne by the leading politicians, party managers, spin doctors and the rest who have sought to stifle genuine debate.

Yours sincerely,
E. C. ROBINSON,
142 Burbage Road, SE21.
April 18.

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, Baroness Blackstone ("A party of positive Europeans", April 18) seeks partly to justify our EU membership by the fact that we export twice as much to Denmark as to China. In 1972, before we joined the Common Market, we had an export surplus with the west European countries of £172 million. We now have an annual trade deficit with the EU countries of £12 billion while with every other major area of the world, where three quarters of our overseas investments lie, our trade is in surplus.

Can it be entirely coincidental that Norway and Switzerland, who chose to remain outside the EU but enjoy free trade arrangements with it, are now the two richest countries in Europe per head of population?

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladwyn Road, Putney, SW15.
April 18.

From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir, James Provan, MEP for South Downs West, tells us (letter, April 18) that the future European Central Bank would take just £3,000 million of our gold reserves, rather than the whole £27,000 million. As a compulsory, unconsulted Euro-citizen, I would prefer to look at Protocol 3.3.1 of the Maastricht treaty, under which we have empowered the ECB "to hold and (to) manage the official foreign reserves of Member states", ie, the whole lot.

If Mr Provan and his 86 colleagues, who are sustained at a cost of £1,146,900 per capui, per annum by the British taxpayer, were to object to any further of six tranches of £3 billion each, they could and doubtless would be out-voted more than six-fold by up to 539 MEPs whom we have not elected.

Any further resistance to such a "pooling" of our resources, authorised by Title II, preamble 8, of the Treaty of European Union would be crushed by our new Supreme Court, handing down one of its unappealable judgments from its power base in Luxembourg.

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS McWHIRTER,
22 Queen's Gate Gardens, SW7.
April 18.

From Mr S. R. Edwards

Sir, What will the Labour Party do in the unfortunate event of being elected to power, when they no longer have Conservative government policy to follow?

Yours faithfully,
S. R. EDWARDS,
1 Isabella Place,
70 Church Road, Combe Down, Bath.
April 16.

Dilemmas for bone marrow donors

From Professor Ian M. Franklin

Sir, Your report today of the dilemma facing the sister of Angela Latham, the woman who may benefit from a bone marrow transplant, poses a number of important questions about the relationship between potential bone marrow donors, their recipients and their respective physicians.

It would be inappropriate to make light of the general anaesthetic and post-operative pain that marrow donors must endure. In addition, most marrow transplant procedures have a long-term success rate of about 50-60 per cent, and so the donor may suffer feelings of guilt and failure if a transplant is unsuccessful.

The donor should be protected by being represented by an independent but knowledgeable doctor who can ensure that the donor's interests remain paramount. Donors, whether family or unrelated, must have complete confidence that donation will only go ahead after appropriate informed consent is obtained and it is confirmed that they are physically completely fit to do so.

Fortunately, many bone marrow transplant units in the United Kingdom now prefer to collect bone marrow cells from the blood using a technique that requires no anaesthesia or admission to hospital, and also provides superior short-term results for the recipient. Blood transfusion services have the facilities in donor centres to enable this procedure to be performed, if absolutely necessary, outside hospital (most bone marrow transplant units would prefer the procedures to be monitored in hospital) or even at home — although I would not recommend this.

Unrelated bone marrow donors, whether members of the Anthony Nolan panel or the British Bone Marrow Registry, are advised, counselled and examined by a physician completely independent of the transplant centre or recipient, enabling them freely to give or refuse their consent.

It is difficult to provide such a neutral environment for family members, but concerned donors such as Susan Squires deserve no lesser consideration of their reasonable fears and anxieties.

Yours sincerely,
IAN FRANKLIN
(Professor of transfusion
medicine and consultant,
Bone Marrow Transplant Unit),
University of Glasgow,
Department of Medicine,
Royal Infirmary,
10 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.
April 19.

Damage to newspapers

From the Chief Executive of The British Library

Sir, The British Library is grateful to Mr W. C. F. Butler (letter, April 15) for having drawn wider attention to the problems we face with the conservation of newspapers.

Newsprint, always on chemically unstable paper, deteriorates quickly and the most effective way of saving its content is through microfilming. Our programme of preservation microfilming is, alas, underfunded and the library has recently bid for additional funds from the Department of National Heritage to permit increased expenditure in a number of areas, including conservation. If the bid is successful we shall be able to microfilm (at a cost of £1.8 million) some 11 million pages of newsprint which are now too fragile to be made available to readers.

The problem of deteriorating newspapers is one of national and indeed international proportion, and a useful co-operative effort to film all British newspapers, known as Newsplan, is under way. But this programme, too, lacks sustained funding. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support of a national programme for preservation microfilming of newspapers is being drawn up on behalf of Newsplan.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANG,
Chief Executive,
The British Library,
96 Euston Road, NW1.
April 17.

From Lord Dunboyne

Sir, Mr Butler's plea for a lottery grant to help preserve the gems in the Newspaper Library at Colindale merits careful consideration. But there is little point in microfilming what is verging on the illegible — as, for instance, is demonstrated by the film of the register of marriages recorded at Chelsea Old Church between 1777 and 1865.

A transcript, made by an expert assisted by modern technology, may be the only solution in such cases, however costly.

Yours faithfully,
DUNBOYNE,
36 Ormonde Gate, SW3.
April 16.

'Alcopop' drinks

From the Director of The Portman Group

Sir, Ian Sutherland's belief (letter, April 15) that "alcopops" constitute "a serious threat to the youth of this country" is a dangerously narrow opinion.

Alcopops have certainly established a place within teenagers' drinking repertoire, but the Health Education Authority's recent research confirms that they range only between 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent strength, far weaker than the high-strength ciders or wine and spirit-based drinks in double figures which Mr Sutherland quotes as examples of his concerns, and which can hardly be described as "soft drinks with an alcoholic content".

Every credible research study to date indicates that alcopops are a minority choice amongst teenage drinkers, with premium lagers and strong ciders well in the lead. These are the real dangers among designer drinks, when consumed by those who drink the most and the most often. Their attraction is a combination of strength plus a hard, grown-up, masculine image. By contrast, teenage alcopops drinkers tend to be young girls who drink occasionally and at home.

Alcohol manufacturers should comply with the responsible marketing guidelines laid down in The Portman Group's code of practice, which helps to ensure that drinks are not aimed, deliberately or otherwise, at those under 18, for example by using cartoon imagery or allusions to illicit drugs. The code has the support of over 100 companies who produce or sell alcohol in the UK. It also spells out ways in which retailers can improve their compliance with the law prohibiting sale of alcohol to those under 18.

Anyone with a complaint under the code is encouraged to send it to The Portman Group where it will be dealt with by an independent panel. I can guarantee that alcopops will not be the only drinks found at fault.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN COUSSINS,
Director, The Portman Group,
2d Wimpole Street, W1.
April 15.

Spelling it out

From Mr Hal Ewing

Sir, Mr N. R. MacNicol (letter, April 16) sees a problem where none exists. There need be no confusion between the dates 2001 and 2021.

Following the pattern used at the beginning of this century, 2001 (two thousand and one), when spoken, would become twenty-OH-one (or simply oh-one) and 2021 twenty twenty-one.

Yours faithfully,
HAL EWING,
36 Fairford Avenue,
Luton, Bedfordshire.
April 19.

From Mr George Harris

Sir, There may be other admirers of Patrick O'Brian of about my age who are hoping they can hang on until after the year 2000 so that they can emulate his hero Jack Aubrey and refer to "the year two".

I would think this distinctive style could operate only in single figures, or is it permissable to use, for example, "the year 34"?

I would think not.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. B. HARRIS,
28 Cherry Tree Drive,
Brixton,
Plymouth, Devon.
April 16.

Glanville Williams

From Sir Robert Jennings, QC

Sir, Your sympathetic obituary notice of Professor Glanville Williams, QC (April 14) — a friend and colleague of mine for something over sixty years — refers to an article written in 1945 in the *British Year Book of International Law* "in which Williams effectively described all academic international lawyers as pedants".

This, with respect, is far from the purpose and tone of an article which — I quote the author's own words — examined "perhaps the largest of jurisprudential controversies, namely that as to the word 'law' ".

Williams wanted to show that this "is a verbal dispute and nothing else", and he did so with his usual learning and clarity of argument. The issue is of great interest to *all* lawyers — and one might suppose also to philosophers — and the article is a serious and beautifully argued statement of what its author believed to be the truth.

Glanville Williams could indeed be "provoking"; but not so much because he mischievously set out to be so, but because he was able to show so often that he was right and the rest of us were wrong.

Yours,
ROBBIE JENNINGS,
61 Bridle Way,
Grantchester, Cambridge.
April 14.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Shaw's classics 'in the doldrums'

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, In his salute to *Waste* at the Old Vic ("Not such a Tory canyon", Arts, April 11) Bernard Levin says:

> I don't remember when a Granville Barker play was last seen in the first-rank theatre. (You may say that George Bernard Shaw is in the dusk, but he, certainly, will come back.)

I share Mr Levin's anxiety about Shaw, but I am not convinced that he *will* come back. I have been trying for years to do productions of *Man and Superman* and *Major Barbara*, but the rights are never available. They are owned by the West End impresario, Duncan Weldon.

Now Mr Weldon has paid money to the Society of Authors for these rights, and his position is legal and correct. My quarrel is not with him, but with the society. I wonder whether the deal that they have with him is in the interests of Shaw or of the public.

Mr Weldon owns all the best Shaw titles for the payment of a modest sum, and providing that he does one Shaw play per year somewhere in the British Isles, this situation will continue. The society had a similar deal with another West End impresario before Mr Weldon.

It must be time for the Society of Authors to reconsider how they administer Shaw's estate. I don't think that that doughty champion of authors' rights would be pleased to find that his work has been allowed to fall into the present doldrums, where the norm is that he is not performed.

Yours,
PETER HALL,
The Old Vic,
Waterloo Road, SE1.
April 15.

Royal exhibition

From Mr K. C. E. Ellison Davis

Sir, I join Mr Malcolm Horsman (letter, April 12) in hoping that the excellent exhibition, *Victoria and Albert, Vicky and the Kaiser*, currently at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, can eventually be shown in the United Kingdom. It has much of interest in it, but I doubt whether it offers any lessons for Eurosceptics.

Mr Horsman contends that the alliance between the then Princess Royal and Prince Frederick William of Prussia was invested with hopes for "international accord". But invested by whom? Although it was a dynastic alliance in the classic sense, the parties responsible for it were not the British or Prussian Governments, but rather Queen Victoria and the Prince's mother, Augusta of Saxe-Weimar.

Lord Palmerston politely hoped that it would be conducive to the Princess's happiness, but *The Times* was outraged at the prospect. A leading article on October 3, 1855, concluded: "the people of England . . . has no wish to improve its acquaintance with any prince of the house of Hohenzollern".

Bismarck, the Princess Royal's implacable enemy for almost 40 years, saw some virtue in it, provided she could forget she was English — "leave the Englishwoman at home": she never could, and therein lay much of the tragedy of her life.

No doubt the present German Chancellor would wish the British to leave their "Britishness at home" and commit themselves fully to the EU. But that would be a tragedy indeed.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ELLISON DAVIS,
Brahms Straat 2,
1077 HG Amsterdam,
The Netherlands.
April 14.

Chips with everything

From Professor Emeritus Christopher Rose-Innes

Sir, As a physicist and an electrical engineer, I am tired of reading statements by the political parties and the churches on the causes of unemployment and the steps they propose to cure it.

A very large contribution to unemployment is not the pursuit of wrong political or economic policies but, quite simply, the silicon chip. I cannot think of an industry or business where the need for manpower has not been substantially reduced by the computer and automation.

Policymakers must face up to this fact, no matter how unpleasant. The silicon chip, and the computer and automation driven by it, will not go away.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ROSE-INNES,
29 Thorngrove Road,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.
April 18.

Honourable discharge

From Mr J. M. Potter

Sir, Both of the meanings of *emeritus* given by Fritz Spiegl (letter, April, 12; see also letter, April 8) seem appropriate. I have a romantic image of an honourably retiring Roman legionary passing down the assembled ranks and away, to the ceremonial applause of his erstwhile comrades; but I have found it hard to convince ancient historians that this must surely be the real origin of the term, "clapped out".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POTTER
(Emeritus Fellow),
Wadham College, Oxford.
April 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Duke of York, Patron, Fight for Sight, this morning opened the OPTRAFAIR 97 Trade Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a Reception followed by the première of *Warchild* given by the National Youth Music Theatre in Peterborough Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Duke of Gloucester laid a wreath at a Service of Commemoration for Commonwealth Korean War Veterans, Kapyong. Later His Royal Highness attended a dinner for British businessmen given by His Excellency Mr Stephen Brown (Her Majesty's Ambassador) and Mrs Brown at the British Embassy, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 20: A contingent of Queen's Scouts and holders of Scout Gallantry Awards attending the National Scouts Service in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, were inspected by The Queen in the Quadrangle of the Castle this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 20: The Duke of Gloucester laid a wreath at the British Memorial and subsequently attended the Gloster Valley Commemoration Service at Solma-ri. Later His Royal Highness opened the UKSTYLE Exhibition to mark the bicentenary of trade between Great Britain and Korea at the Jeil Building, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor, University of London, will open the Library and Learning Resources Centre, Wye College, Wye, Ashford, Kent at 2.00; and as President, RedR — Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend RedR Patrons Dinner, The Institution of Civil Engineers, 1-7 Great George Street, London SW1 at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a Gala Fashion Show in aid of the Holly Lodge Centre at Drapers Hall, London EC2 at 7.15.

Service dinners

Movement Control Officers' Club
Brigadier R.E. Ratazzi, Chief Executive of the Defence Transport and Movements Executive and President of the Movement Control Officers' Club, and Mrs Ratazzi were the principal guests at the annual ladies dinner of the club held on Saturday at the Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut. Col S.H. Spackman, chairman, presided.

No 619 Squadron RAF
Wing Commander R.A. Milward presided at the annual reunion dinner of No 619 Squadron RAF held on Saturday at the RAF Club Piccadilly.

Dinner

Garrick Club
Mr Ian Wallace was the guest of honour at the annual members dinner of the Garrick Club held last night at the club. Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, presided and Mr Denis Richards also spoke.

Painter-Stainers' Company

Dr Alan Borg, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, was the speaker at the annual prizegiving of the Painter-Stainers' Company held recently at Painters' Hall. Mr G.A. Luton, chairman of the education committee, presided.

Mr Godfrey Jacobs, Master, presented the prizes to the best achievers in National Vocational Qualifications Level 3 for Painting and Decorating at Technical Colleges in the London area, to art students at schools connected with the City of London, and to colleges including the Royal College of Art, Royal Academy Schools, the Textile Department of Leeds University, UMIST, the Royal National College for the Blind, Slade School of Fine Art, the Byam Shaw School of Art, the City & Guilds of London Art School and for conservation at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Courtauld Institute.

Royal College of Surgeons of England

At a meeting of the Council held on April 10, 1997, Sir Rodney Sweetnam was re-elected President of the College for the year commencing July 10, 1997. Mr R.J. Heald and Mr John Ll. Williams were respectively re-elected and elected as Vice-Presidents. Mr Craig Duncan has been appointed Secretary of the College to succeed Mr R.H.E. Duffett, on August 4, 1997.

School announcements

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park
The Summer Term begins today at The Arts Educational School, Tring Park, and Karen Fortune begins her term of office as Head Girl. The Music Showcase is on May 22 and 23, and Founders Day is July 5. Term ends with the Midsummer Ball on Friday, July 11.

Bedstone College
Bedstone College returns for the start of the Summer term today. Confirmation will take place on Friday, May 23, with the Right Rev P. Goodrich. Old Bedstonian's Day is on June 7 and Speech Day will take place on June 14 when the Guest of Honour will be Dr John Rae with prizes presented by Mrs Rae. Half term is from Saturday, May 24, to Wednesday, May 28. The college will hold an Open Day on May 17 and term ends on Saturday, July 5.

Bromsgrove School
School convenes today for the summer term. The Concerto Concert will be held on Thursday, May 8. *Woman in Mind* will be performed in Routh Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 30, May 1 and 2. Term ends with Commemoration Day on Saturday, June 28.

The Cheltenham Ladies' College
Term opens today at The Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from 5.00pm on Friday, May 23, to Sunday, June 1, 1997. The Hon Jonathon Porritt will give the address at the College Service, which will take place at 10.00am on Sunday, April 27, in the Princess Hall. Professor Lisa Jardine will give a lecture entitled "What happened in Hamlet?" at Beale and Cambray on Wednesday, May 7, at 5.15pm. Confirmation by the Right Rev John Neale, Assistant Bishop of Bath and Wells, will take place in Cheltenham College Chapel at 11.00am on Saturday, May 10. The Guild Annual General Meeting will take place in Lower Hall at 11.00am on Saturday, May 17. Limited accommodation is available for those attending the full weekend's activities. The Guild Service will take place in the Princess Hall on Sunday, May 18, at 10.30am. The Preacher will be Mr John Tolputt, MA, Headmaster of Rendcomb College. The Summer Concert will take place in the Princess Hall at 7.30pm on Friday, July 11. Mrs Ruth Deech, MA, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford and Chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority will be the Guest Speaker on Speech Day, Saturday, July 12. Term ends on Saturday, July 12. The Music Department Tour to St Benoit sur Loire, Verona and Venice departs on Monday, July 14, and returns Wednesday, July 23. The Hockey and Netball Tour to South Africa will take place from July 21 to August 9, 1997.

Cobham Hall
The Summer Term begins today at Cobham Hall. The new Guardian is Olivia Douse and the Deputy Guardians are Susan Price and Yuki Hayashi. Sixth Form Scholarships have been awarded to Hilary Smith-Spark (Cobham Hall), Diana Dias-Abeyesinghe (St John's RC School, Gravesend), Belinda Gethin (Rochester Grammar School) and Elizabeth Gibson (Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks). Junior Scholarships have been awarded to Hannah Chandler (Leybourne Primary School), Laura Davidson (Edwards House School), Priya Kumar (Silfield Prep School, Kings Lynn), Heather McLaughlin (New Ash Green Primary School), Hannah Paternoster (Gad's Hill School, Higham) and Katharine Turner and Sally Turner (The Banda School, Kenya). Elders' Day is on Saturday, May 10, when there will also be an Open Day for parents of prospective pupils. Festival Day and the Unicorn Ball are on Saturday, July 5. Term ends on Sunday, July 6.

Dulwich College
The Summer Term begins today. Richard Amlot continues as Captain of School and Oliver Farley is Captain of Cricket. The Thursday Club will be addressed by Mr Ian Hay Davison, OA, on May 1, Dr Bruce Smith, OBE, OA, on May 8 and Mr Richard Searle on May 15. The Inspecting Officer at the Combined Cadet Force Annual General Inspection on May 6 will be Air Vice-Marshal the Venerable P.R. Turner, OA, Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF. The principal work at the Summer Concert in the Fairfield Hall on May 13 will be *Spring* from *The Seasons* by Haydn. The preacher at the Commemoration Service in Chapel on Sunday, June 22, will be the Rev Canon Colin Fletcher. On June 28 the Madrigal Choir will sing Solemn Mass and Choral Evensong at the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. Founder's Day is July 5. Dulwich will host the Cricket Festival for Downside, RGS Lancaster and Strathallan July 7-9. Half Term is May 24 to June 1 and term ends on July 10.

Ibstock Place School
Summer term starts today at Ibstock Place School. This day also commemorates the birth of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) upon whose principles the school was founded in 1894. Speech Day is on July 3, 1997, when Old Ibstonian and journalist the Hon Nigella Lawson will be our principal guest. Topping Out Ceremony of the new Froebel Kindergarten, Priestman House, will take place on April 29 and open in September.

Lady Eden's School
Summer Term begins today. Headgirl is Emily Rees Jones. The 50th Anniversary Reception will be held at Claridge's on June 5. (Tickets £15.00 from: The Organising Secretary, 41 Victoria Road, London, W8 5RJ). Open Day at the School, June 23, and Sports Day, Battersea Park, July 7. Prizegiving and Speech Day, Town Hall Kensington, July 9. Guest Speaker Mrs Richard Fallowfield (Miss Eden). Term ends July 9.

The Mall School, Twickenham
The Mall School celebrates the 125th anniversary of its foundation this year. Events to be held include the Old Mallian Dinner at the Naval Club on Friday, April 25, the Anniversary Ball at Hampton Court Garden Room on Friday, May 16, a Charity Afternoon on Monday, July 7, and Commemoration Day on Friday, July 11. The *Thistlethwaite Building*, comprising two Science Labs and the Music Department, will be opened later in the year. For further information please contact tel: 0181-977 2523.

Merchant Taylors' School
Summer term at Merchant Taylors' School begins today, and ends on Thursday, July 3. Inspection Day is on Friday, May 9, and the Inspecting Officer will be Brigadier P.P. Rawlings, Royal Anglian Regiment. Open Morning is on Saturday, May 17, and St Barnabas (Prizegiving) is on Saturday, May 31. Keith Fowler is Captain of Cricket. OMT Day is on Sunday, June 22, and Music Week begins on June 25, with Summer Serenade at 8.00pm on Tuesday, July 1. The School has charity status and exists for the education of children. Registered charity no 310018.

Moira House, Eastbourne
Summer Term begins today and ends on Saturday, July 5. Mrs Ann Harris, BEd(Hons), ARCM, has been appointed Principal in succession to Adrian Underwood, BA(Hons), MA, FRSA, who is retiring as Headmaster. Adrian Underwood has served Moira House as Headmaster for 22 successful and committed years during which the school has grown from 140 to over 300 pupils. He has both upheld the philosophy of the founders and enhanced the reputation of the school nationally and internationally. The Governors are delighted that Adrian Underwood has accepted the post of Bursar in succession to Christopher Warren who is moving to Lord Wandsworth College as Bursar after 7 years devoted and admired service. The new School Knights (Head Girls) are Katie Clark (formerly of Skippers Hill School) and Christina Garrett (formerly of Rosemead School, Dulwich). The new Standard Bearers (Prefects) are: Lisa Benson (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Miruna Canagaratnam (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Sarah-Jane Cluse (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Justine Cordingley (formerly of Peponi House, Kenya), Eileen Howe (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Theresa McGhee (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Helen McTear (formerly of Beresford House School), Harriet Phillips (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Elizabeth Richardson (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Belinda Samy (formerly of Claremont School). The exchange with our partner school Gymnasium Lohne will be from April 23 to May 5. Founders' Day and the Moira House Old Girls' Club Reunion is on Saturday, June 28, when the Guest Speakers will be Frances Line, OBE, and Mr James Lloyd.

Witham Hall School
The Governing Board is pleased to announce the appointment of David and Sarah Telfer to the Headship of Witham Hall Preparatory School with effect from September 1997.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jan van Riebeck, naval surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, The Netherlands, 1619; Friedrich Froebel, educator, Overweissbach, Germany, 1782; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer, Malpas, Cheshire, 1783; Charlotte Brontë, writer, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; Sir Herbert Barker, manipulative surgeon, Southport, 1869; Henry de Montherlant, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1896.

DEATHS: St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, Canterbury, 1109; Peter Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Racine, dramatist, Paris, 1699; Mark Twain, writer, Redding, Connecticut, 1910; Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron), German air ace, shot down, 1918; Eleanora Duse, actress, Pittsburgh, 1924; Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate 1913-30, Chilswell, Kent, 1930; John Maynard Keynes, Baron Keynes, economist, Tilton, Somerset, 1946; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, Zurich, 1952; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Edinburgh, 1965; François Duvalier, President of Haiti 1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.

The city of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into Beijing's Tiananmen Square, ignoring government warnings of severe punishment, 1989.

Birthdays today

The Queen celebrates her 71st birthday today.

Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 65; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith and silversmith, 67; Mr I.W. Bruce, director-general of the RNIB, 52; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 81; Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 65; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglian Water, 58; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 62; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, 80; Sir Robin Ibbs, former chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 71; Mr John McCabe, composer and concert pianist, 58; Dr Halfdan Mahler, former secretary-general, International Planned Parenthood Federation, 74; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 55; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 82; Sir Alexander Stone, lawyer and banker, 90; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 72; the Earl of Verulam, 46.

John Mortimer, QC, the author and barrister, is 74

Shropshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Shropshire: Mr George Raxster, of Telford; Mr Malcolm Gray Douglas Graham, of Bridgnorth; Mr Richard Charles Sawtell, of Shrewsbury; Lord Kingsland, QC; and Mr Charles Anthony Hollings, of Ryton, near Dorrington.

Latest wills

George Ernest Hillyer **Creber**, retired chartered surveyor, of Mannamead, Plymouth, left estate valued at £1,493,857 net.

Charles Christopher **Payne**, of Mundesley, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,210,477 net.

Walter Christie **Steele**, of Great Baddow, Chelmsford, left estate valued at £1,188,394 net.
He left £1,000 to the ophthalmic unit of Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.

Aubrey Cyril **Warshaw**, of London SW6, left estate valued at £1,440,042 net.
He left £1,000 to Jewish Care.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J.R.C. Belton and Miss J.C.T. Deshon
The engagement is announced between David, son of Captain Christopher Belton, RN, of Midhurst, West Sussex, and of Mrs James Laybourne, of Ashton, Hampshire, and stepson of Captain James Laybourne, RN, and Julia, daughter of the late Major Peter Deshon and of Mrs Peter Deshon, of Hartley Mauditt, Hampshire.

Mr C.A.D. Boyle and Miss I. Steuart Fothringham
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Paul Boyle, of Mallsgate Hall, Cumbria, and Ilona, younger daughter of Robert Steuart Fothringham, of Pourie, and the late Mrs Steuart Fothringham.

Mr R.S.E. Brown and Miss H.M. Launders
The engagement is announced between Robin Stuart Edward, only son of Commander and Mrs Michael Brown, of Combe Down, Bath, and Harriet May, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) and Mrs Nicholas Launders, of Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames.

Mr J.M. Hudson and Miss E.F. Hallett
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs I. Hudson, of St Brelade, Jersey, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.W. Hallett, of Longueville, Jersey.

Mr G.E. Pitt and Miss A.J. Hoskyns
The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Pitt, of Long Melford, Suffolk, and Arabella, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hoskyns, of Chiswick, London.

Mr J.C. Rodwell and Miss C.S.S. Bevington
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Commander D.S. Rodwell, RN, retd, of Wanstead Park, London, and Mrs S.J. Rodwell, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Catherine, daughter of Mr J.S. Bevington, of Hambye, France, and Mrs E. Burton, of Southbourne, Hampshire.

Marriage

Sir Derek Dodson and Mrs R. Massouridis
The marriage took place in Athens, on Wednesday, April 16, 1997, between Sir Derek Dodson, of London, and Mrs Rania Massouridis, nee Papadam, of Maroussi, Athens.

Appointment

Mr Michael William Rapinet to be a full-time legal member of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

Nature notes appear on the facing page

BIRTHS

CLACKSON - On March 21st to Patrick and Charlotte (née Dowglass), a son, Giles William Dowglass.

HOLMES - On 16th April a son to Bob and Angie, Harry John.

JACKSON - On April, 18th to Karen (née Foster) and Adam a son Daniel Robert.

KENYON-SLANEY - On April 10th, to Harry and Laura (née O'Reilly), in Johannesburg, South Africa, a son.

LINDSAY - On 17th April 1997 in New York to Julie (née Sellers) and Tom Lindsay a son Courtenay Traice Alexander.

MACKENZIE - On April 15th in Hong Kong to Linnie (née Clifford Kocq van Breugl) and Iain, a daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth.

MONTGOMERIE On 17th April 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Katie (née Grieves) and Rory, a daughter, Henrietta Lucy, a sister for Alexander.

TOWNSEND - On 16th April 1997, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to Erin (née Bannister) and Alain, a beautiful daughter, Chloe Gwendolyn Moyra, adored sister for Barnaby, Hermione and Anthea.

DEATHS

BEEVOR - Paul Nicholas, 14th April, 1997 at the Royal Marsden Hospital after a long illness bravely borne. Requiem Mass at Brompton Oratory 24th April, at 11.00am followed by interment at Mill Hill Cemetery at 1.15pm. All enquiries and flowers to J H Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, 0171 937 0757. Otherwise donations to Royal Marsden Hospital.

BURKETT BAKER - His Honour Judge John Burkett Baker Q.C., died on 17th April 1997. His wife Margaret Baker and family ask for you to remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

FASOLA - Josephine Mary, (née Ilott) died peacefully on 17th April 1997 at the Sue Ryder Home, Stagenhoe aged 81 years. Widow of the late Eric Fasola, Mother of Robin, Judy and Jenny. Private cremation to be held at Harwood Park Crematorium on Thursday 24th April followed by a Memorial Service at St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury, Hertford, at 11.15 am. All friends welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Sue Ryder Home Stagenhoe may be sent c/o Geo.W.Blow & Sons, Church Street, Welwyn Herts AL6 0BL. Tel: 01438 714686

GARDINER - Reverend Canon, Arthur John. On 14th April 1997, peacefully. The funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, E. Grinstead on Friday, 25th April at 1.30pm. Would priests wishing to concelebrate contact Revd. Gordon Bond on 01342 323439. No flowers please, but donations to St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley.

HARRIS - Ellen Ada née Baylis Ellen known fondly as "Bay" during her working time at Reuters. Passed away peacefully in Mansfield on 10th April 1997 aged 94 years. Funeral Service took place on Friday 18th April at Eltham Cemetery. Donations in lieu of flowers to the RSPCA for use in the Mansfield area c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service, Rosemary Street, Mansfield NG18 1RB. Tel: 01623 27701.

KARSTEN - Christopher on April 5th 1997 aged 44. Dearly beloved son, husband and father of Charles and Daphne (née Wootton) Lila Rebecca and Charles.

LLOYD - Edmond Eustace LVO. On April 8th, of Wellington Lodge, Winkfield and formerly of 98 Osborne Road, Windsor. Cremation took place on Thursday 17th April. No letters please, but donations, if desired may be sent to the Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL.

MANN - Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) on 15th April 1997 following a car accident in France, beloved wife of Ernest, cherished mother of Susan, Kate, Mike and Gill and their spouses David, Adrian, Victoria and Simon. Much loved and treasured Granny of Jake, Dorie, Edward, Toby, Charles, Edward, James, Rosy, Sam and Ellie, loved sister of Anne and John Taylor. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Wargrave, Berks, at 12.30pm on Friday 25th April. Flowers or donations (to "The Doctor's Fund", Wargrave Surgery) c/o AB Walker and Son Ltd. 36 Eldon Rd, Reading, Berks RG1 4DL. Tel: 0118 957 3650.

MORTON - Hilda, aged 94, widow of the late Jack Morton, on 17th April 1997, peacefully at home at Shelsley Beauchamp. Family cremation followed by Service at St Mary's Church, Abberley, Worcs. on Friday 25th April at 3pm. Donations if wished to Help the Aged.

MYNSSEN-PRESSBURG - Isabel known as Anne. Died peacefully on Thursday 17th April 1997 aged 81. Funeral on 25th April at 3.30pm at Golders Green Crematorium. No flowers. Donations if wished to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1. All enquiries to Sharen Hegarty on 0181 886 8870.

PALMER - Elsie. Widow of the late Herbert Palmer CBE and former Deputy Chairman of Glaxo Group Limited. Died peacefully at The Beaumont Nursing Home, Oxford on April 15th 1997. Remembered with love by her children John, Richard, Sarah, Anna and their families. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium 11.30am Wednesday 23rd April 1997. Flowers to Co-Op Funeral Services, 2 Hendred Street, Cowley, Oxford, or donations to Millenium Seed Bank Appeal, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, TW9 3AB.

PEARSON - John Nesfield. Died peacefully in hospital on 15th April 1997 aged 48. Much beloved husband to Ruth and father. Service to be held on 24th April at 3pm in The Lady Chapel, St Albans Abbey, followed by committal at West Herts Crematorium, Garston at 4pm. Donations if desired, please to The Church Urban Fund 2 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LX. "He touched so many lives and will be greatly missed".

REEDER HUTCHINSON - Jo (née Armstrong). Cherished and greatly loved mother of Suzanne and grandmother of Alexander and Joel, on 17 April 1997, peacefully and without pain after a long illness. Funeral at 12 noon on Thursday 24th April at Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. If wished, donations to St Raphael's Hospice, North Cheam. All enquiries to Mears and Cotterill 0181 874 7698.

REES - Mary on April, 18th 1997 peacefully at Wexham Park Hospital, aged 91. Beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral at St Jame's Church, Fulmer, Bucks at 3.30 pm Thursday, 24th April. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Age Concern, c/o H C Grimstead Ltd, Churchfield Lodge, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

SALISBURY - On the 18th April, 1997 peacefully in hospital Alan of Kingweston, Somerton, Somerset aged 92 years. Funeral service at Kingweston Church on Thursday 24th April, 1997 at 3.30pm. No flowers please. Enquiries and donations for Kingweston Church may be forwarded to Forsey and Son, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset.

WALSH - Marjorie Olive died on 19th April 1997, aged 87, at St. George's Retreat, Burgess Hill, after a long illness. Widow of Maj Gen F J Walsh. Mother of Patrick and Michael, loving Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Late of Frinton-on-Sea. Enquiries to Master & Co. (Lindfield) Tel: 01444 482107

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

JEPSON TURNER - A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Rosemarie Jepson Turner will be held on Wednesday, 30th April at 11.00 am at St Andrews Church, Nether Wallop. All friends welcome.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GIDDY - Reginald. Cellist. In unfading memory of my beloved husband, who died in Geneva on 21st April 1994. For ever in my heart and in my thoughts. The greater the love, the greater the grief. Helen.

SLAUGHTER - Enid Lillian. Died 21st April 1987. So very dearly loved. So very greatly missed.

WALKER - Roy. Remembered on his birthday and every other day. Sue.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE Ten Celebrants at the golden wedding anniversary dinner on 13 April 1997 at The Ritz, London announce their considered and unanimous view that the Restaurant achieved perfection in every particular, despite the wide-ranging requirements of six vegetarians and four carnivores. Thankyou Mr Markus Binkert and colleagues.

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PIERCE-ALL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Ernst & Young, Apex Plaza, Reading RG1 1YE on 25 April 1997 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at the offices of Ernst & Young, Apex Plaza, Reading RG1 1YE between the hours of 10am and 4pm on 23 & 24 April 1997.
For the purposes of voting a statement of claim and any proxy intended for use at the meeting must be lodged with the company at its registered office, Ernst & Young, Apex Plaza, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1YE not later than 12 noon on 24 April 1997.
Dated: 9 April 1997
W H Cooper,
Director/Secretary

In the High Court of Justice No. 0010393 of 1992
Chancery Division
Companies Court
In the matter of Mount Credit Corporation Limited
(formerly known as Mount Banking Corporation Limited)
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisors of Mount Credit Corporation Limited intend to declare a final dividend to creditors of the above company based on their individual balances as at 30 April 1997. Interest will not accrue on outstanding balances after 30 April 1997. The final dividend will be available for distribution on 1 May 1997.
A letter to this effect has gone to all creditors who have provided an address to the company. This letter requests that all creditors notify the Supervisors of details of to whom the distribution is to be sent.
Any person or body corporate believing that they have a valid claim and who has not received previous notification should contact the company at 5 Mount Street, London W1Y 5AA.
Dated this 17th day of April 1997
P W Wallace, Joint Supervisor

PUBLIC NOTICES

RUKBA. The Annual General Meeting of The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association will be held at The Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, London EC2 at 3.00 pm on Monday 19th May 1997 to receive the report of the Committee and the accounts for 1996 and to elect members of the Committee and the Auditors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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هكذا من الاعلا

STEPHAN HERMLIN

Stephan Hermlin, German author, died on April 6 aged 81. He was born on April 13, 1915.

Stephan Hermlin was a leading figure in the literary life of the German Democratic Republic throughout the 40 years of its artificial existence. A Communist by conviction, he never wavered in the beliefs he had formed as a teenager in Weimar Germany, when economic chaos and political confusion lent new urgency to questions about the relationship between life and letters.

Hermlin's enduring commitment both to party and state was rewarded with many honours and he was on friendly terms with East Germany's rulers, from Erich Honecker down. But, for all his willingness to celebrate Stalin, Hermlin was no mere party hack. If his political views were formed in the turbulent years between the First World War and the Nazi assumption of power, so too were his literary ideas.

To the writers in whose shadow Hermlin grew up, from the Expressionists to Brecht and Thomas Mann, social progress and artistic Modernism were not just compatible but inseparably linked. In a State which tended to favour the vulgar certainties of socialist realism in art, Hermlin was a prominent and consistent champion of Modernist ambiguity; and — whether as writer, translator or polemicist — his voice was difficult to ignore. Sincere support for the Communist regime precluded neither private doubt nor public conflict. Furthermore, his convictions did not stop him writing in a way that owed more to the mainstream of the European literary tradition than to any ideological prescription.

Hermlin's best writing — refined, elegiac and spare — was as complex as his personality. The two, in fact, are closely interwoven, though not always in obvious ways. Resistance to Fascism is at the heart of Hermlin's work, and central to his oeuvre is a series of powerful and apparently autobiographical tales. The evocative pieces in the prose collection *Abendlicht* (Evening Light, 1979), especially, seem drawn directly from his own life and that of his family and fellow anti-Fascists. Yet the life they suggest turns out not quite to have been the life Hermlin lived, and when attention was drawn in 1996 to some serious discrepancies between mundane fact and heroic fiction, a notable scandal ensued.

Hermlin's reputation was undeniably diminished by those revelations, and there were those in the new Germany all too happy to see it so. But he found some prominent defenders, too, and the power of his best work owes nothing to his banal deceptions. He may not have lived quite as he liked to imagine, but his idealism was real, and his life was remarkable enough. He remains an important figure among modern German writers.

Stephan Hermlin was the pseudonym of Rudolf Leder, born to a Jewish family in Chemnitz. Hermlin's own version of his life, long accepted, gave him an English mother; in fact, she was from Galicia. His father, of Romanian stock, was interned as an enemy alien during the First World War, but went on to enjoy prosperity as a businessman during the Weimar years of raging inflation. Hermlin may, however, have exaggerated his parents' wealth, perhaps to emphasise that he was a Communist by choice, not out of envy or class solidarity: a love of elegance stayed with him in later life, but in reality, the family fortunes seem to have fluctuated rather as they moved back and forth between Chemnitz and Berlin.

Hermlin's father did not die in a concentration camp, as was suggested, though he did spend six weeks in Sachsenhausen in 1938 before emigrating in 1939 to England; he died of liver cancer in London in 1947, his widow acquiring British citizenship the following year. The dangers and difficulties faced by the family under the Nazis were real, however. From an early age Hermlin himself had been active in the Communist youth movement, participating in street fights and other illegal activities. In 1933 he had to abandon his Gymnasium education and take up an apprenticeship as a printer.

His parents' efforts to get Hermlin and his siblings to safety bore fruit, and in 1936 he joined his brother and sister in Tel Aviv, where he worked as a bookseller for a while. He left Palestine for France in 1937, intending to fight with the International Brigade in Spain. But his health was too poor to permit the active service he later claimed.

On reaching Paris he worked with German opposition groups, then served with the French auxiliary forces and worked on the land until he was interned in 1942 and narrowly escaped deportation. In April 1943 he managed to escape to Switzerland, where his first volume of poems was published in 1945.

Those poems, and others in the collections that followed, deal with the struggle against Fascism, of which the author's experience was recent and direct. But much of their interest derives from the tension between the vividness of their contemporary content and the melancholy refinement of their classical forms.

Returning to Germany in 1945, Hermlin worked in the literary department of Radio Frankfurt. But in 1947 he left Adenauer's Germany for the Soviet-occupied zone, settling in East Berlin, where he joined the Communist Party (the SED) and worked as a writer and editor.

It was in his own work in these early years in East Germany that he came closest to the stereotype of official communist literature, writing poems in praise of Stalin, the October Revolution and the GDR's first president Wilhelm Pieck. But the writers he was translating even then — Shakespeare, Keats, Paul Eluard, Pablo Neruda, Louis Aragon, Robert Doisneau — showed his preference for the products of an unfettered imagination. His radio play *Scardanelli* (1970) dealt with the madness of the poet Hölderlin, another figure whose place in the communist literary canon was far from secure.

The contradictions at the heart of Hermlin's work and private beliefs were equally apparent in some of his public pronouncements, as was his openness to new ideas. They brought him into increasingly frequent conflict with the regime. His own eminence gave him comparative security, but he showed repeated willingness to help writers less likely to be officially indulged. With Stefan Heym he led the protests at the expulsion from the country of the songwriter Wolf Biermann in 1976.

Many East German artists and intellectuals followed Biermann into exile, but Hermlin kept faith with the GDR to the end, and after its collapse he joined the PDS, post-communist successor to the SED. Although willing to admit mistakes, he continued to take pride in communism's achievements and was critical of the new, unified Germany, seeing in it a resurgence of the tendencies that had taken Germany into the abyss half a century before.

Stephan Hermlin's first wife died in France in 1941. He married his second wife, a Russian, in 1963. There was a daughter of the first marriage and a son of the second.

SHEILA ROTHWELL

Sheila Rothwell, director of the Centre for Employment Policy Studies at Henley Management College, 1979-96, died of cancer on April 4 aged 61. She was born on August 22, 1935.

SHEILA ROTHWELL made her name in the public domain as a leading pioneer for women's rights. She went on to become an authority on labour problems, industrial relations and resource management in general, with an international reputation in her field.

She was already a respected academic with some experience of industrial relations and women's issues when she joined the Equal Opportunities Commission on its foundation — shortly after the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. She remained with the commission for about three years, at first running its small but influential London office — including the supervision of its press coverage — then moving to its Manchester headquarters as assistant chief executive.

In 1979, however, she moved to Henley as director of its Centre for Employment Studies — which over the next 17 years was to provide her with the perfect vehicle for her talents. A natural teacher and lecturer, she tutored businessmen from all over the world, while conducting her own research into the changing patterns of labour and personnel management.

She travelled extensively as her reputation grew, visiting all parts of Europe, India, the Seychelles and undertaking two extensive lecture tours of the United States. She also took on a number of other part-time jobs, including membership of Professor Bernard Williams's committee on obscenity and film censorship, 1978-79. In 1988 she was recruited by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service as an independent expert on equal pay. In 1988 she joined its panel of arbitrators and four years later was appointed deputy chairman of the central arbitration committee.

She joined the Social Democratic Party when it started and was at one time a parliamentary candidate but withdrew because she found it too time-consuming.

Born Sheila Gwendoline Paine, she was the daughter of a bank official. She went from Wyggeston School, Leicester, to Westfield College, London, to read history, then to Cambridge for 12 months' teacher training.

After teaching briefly in London she left for Trinidad in the late 1950s when her first husband Miles Rothwell, a civil engineer, went to work there. She continued to teach in Trinidad and also in Barbados in the early 1960s. But her marriage broke up and she returned to England in 1968 with her two children to start a new career.

Her first post was as a research officer and lecturer in industrial relations at the London School of Economics. She took her master's degree in the same subject and remained at LSE until 1975, when she was made assistant secretary (negotiations) at the National Union of Bank Employees.

Twelve months later she left for the Equal Opportunities Commission — having already worked part-time as a research secretary for the House of Lords Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Bill.

She was chairman of the governors of Henley Tertiary College, 1989-94, and was recently invited to join the council of Queen Mary and Westfield College — an appointment in which she took a special pride.

Her publications included *Labour Turnover* in 1980 and numerous contributions to specialist journals.

Aside from her clear and incisive mind, Sheila Rothwell's great strength was her common sense and practicality. Distancing herself from women's politics and feminine extremists, she helped guide the EOC towards attainable objectives and into areas where there was genuine discrimination.

She never lost her sense of humour or femininity, allowing herself to remain a slave to fashion trends and the couturiers — if to nothing and nobody else. Despite her energy and sociability, she remained an essentially private person. This was reflected in her outside interests, which included opera, the cinema and walking. She tried to see as much as possible of those countries which she visited on business, and recently took up water-colour painting.

She retired from Henley Management College last year to set herself up as a freelance consultant, which she thought would give her more time and allow her to see more of her two grandchildren. But cancer was later diagnosed.

In 1985 she had married her second husband, Graham Reid, a senior civil servant from the Department of Employment. He survives her, together with a son and daughter from her first marriage.

SIR JOHN SUMMERFIELD

Sir John Summerfield, CBE, former Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands died on April 4 aged 76. He was born on September 20, 1920.

JOHN SUMMERFIELD was chief justice in Bermuda in the 1970s when the island was shocked by a sequence of brutal murders, including that of the governor Sir Richard Sharples. As he was next on the assassins' hit list, he stood aside from the trial in which two men were charged (and acquitted) of the 1973 shooting of Sharples and his ADC, a young Welsh Guards officer. But he presided at a later, separate hearing when the same two men were convicted of killing two supermarket managers, and sentenced to death.

When he left Bermuda in 1977 to take up a similar post in the Cayman Islands, the *Baltimore Sun* reported his appointment with relief. The prospect of a "hanging judge", it said, was welcome for the security of the Caymans and their burgeoning financial business.

In fact the unsought title hardly did justice to the judge. Summerfield had passed the only sentence open to him in cases of capital murder in Bermuda. Nor did his interpretation of Cayman law always endear him to Washington during the next 10 years.

Resisting pressure from the US Inland Revenue for instance, he upheld the strict privacy code of the Cayman banks when applications were made through the courts for information on American tax payers. A treaty was finally signed, however which guaranteed co-operation between Britain, the USA and the Cayman Islands in cases involving drug runners and other criminals bent on laundering their money.

Summerfield had acquired his experience the hard way. As a young Crown counsel in Tanganyika nearly 50 years ago, he would accompany a judge, a defence lawyer and a safari box of supplies, on circuit into the interior, to try cases in remote corners of the bush. An open-sided thatched hut served as a courtroom, dignified by a Union Jack hanging from a pole and a portrait of the King nailed to the post inside. There in the simmering heat of the African morning, they dispensed His Majesty's justice in the presence of three village elders and an interpreter.

Some of the cases they dealt with involved the "Lion Murders", an infamous series of killings inspired by witch doctors, so-called because the assassins were dressed in lion skins.

In Dar-es-Salaam itself, Summerfield once successfully prosecuted Julius Nyerere for libelling a district officer. Many years later in London he met up again with Nyerere, by this time president of independent Tanzania. Nyerere greeted him like an old friend.

John Crampton Summerfield was no stranger to East Africa. The son of an accountant (who died young from asthma) he was himself born in Nairobi — although educated in England at Lucton School, Herefordshire.

He went into the Army straight from school and served throughout the Second World War as a cipher officer in the Royal Corps of Signals, in East Africa, Abyssinia, Somaliland and Madagascar. Demobilised in 1946, he then read for the Bar and was called by Gray's Inn in 1949.

Joining the colonial legal service, he left shortly afterwards for Tanganyika where he was promoted from Crown counsel to legal draftsman in 1953. Five years later he returned to Nairobi as deputy legal secretary in the East Africa High Commission.

Summerfield left Africa in 1962 to take up the post of Attorney-General in Bermuda. He took silk in the following year and became chief justice in 1972. He also served on the island's Legislative and Executive Councils between 1962 and 1968, resigning under the terms of the new constitution which he had himself helped to shape at the 1967 constitutional conference in London.

By 1977 he felt that it was time for a local man to succeed him and left for the Cayman Islands. But he did not entirely sever his links with Bermuda. While chief justice in the Caymans, he also became a justice of appeal for Bermuda, as well as a judge of the Court of Appeal in Belize.

By the time Summerfield retired in 1987, he had done much to raise the status of the judiciary in the Caymans, following the islands' sudden expansion as an off-shore finance centre and rich man's playground. A tall, dignified presence of unquestionable integrity, he soon made clear his zero tolerance of wrongdoers. But if he was firm, he was also fair and was famous for his courtesy in court — not only to the most junior bar but equally to those in the dock.

He was known for his kindness, especially in the less formal family courts — where he often conducted adoption applications with the children on his lap.

When he retired more than a hundred of these children and their new families presented him with an album of their photographs, inscribed: "For your sincerity, your thoughtful and considered judgments, for the enthusiasm and respect you have shown, we the adopted children for the Cayman Islands thank you with our deepest respect and fondness." The Cayman Government also made him an honorary citizen.

Off duty he was a skilled sailor and chess player — winning prizes at both — and an accomplished amateur photographer. But he was above all else a family man.

He met his wife Patricia — who converted him to Roman Catholicism — during the war in East Africa, where she was serving with the First Aid Nursing Yeomary (FANY). They met in Mombasa and were nearly killed on their first date when they drove into the bush and were charged by four stampeding rhinos.

The incident was one of several which made Summerfield wonder if he was being spared for some great purpose. Years later he missed his flight from Dar-es-Salaam to Kenya through an extraordinary conjunction of mishaps. He later learnt that the aircraft had crashed into Mount Kilimanjaro killing all on board.

As it was John Summerfield was able to celebrate his golden wedding two years ago by accompanying his wife on a world cruise. He is survived by her and by two sons and two daughters.

Nature notes

THE first cuckoos are back: they look like bluish-grey hawks but have a distinctive flight, never bringing their wings above the horizontal. A few swifts have also returned, screaming over the housetops, but it will be May before the main body of them are back in Britain. Some robins and blackbirds nested very early this year, and the first fledglings are hiding in the hedges. Linnets are beginning to build their nests in gorse and bramble bushes: the male sits singing on a high spray while the female adds a grass stalk or a feather, then they both fly off rapidly together.

Bluebells are coming out, but most of them are only partly unfurled, and it will be another week before they form sheer carpets of blue in the woods. Along roadside banks there are clumps of greater stitchwort, or bachelor's buttons: the flowers have five white, notched petals, while the stalks and leaves are thin and tangled. Many trees already have thick foliage, and the buds of oak and ash are beginning to split. Speckled wood butterflies are appearing in woodland glades. They emerge from chrysalids hanging in the grass, and fly low with dappled wings. **DJM**

The linnet

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Humphrey Southern, Vicar, Hale, and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Guildford): to be Team Rector, Hale w Badshot Lea, same diocese.

The Rev Christopher Sterry, Bishop of Blackburn's Domestic Chaplain: to be Vicar, St Mary and All Saints, Whalley and Warden of Whalley Abbey (Blackburn).

The Rev Cristina Sumners, Assistant Chaplain to King Edward School, Witley: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Guildford (Guildford).

The Rev Susan Turner, Assistant Chaplain, Withington Hospital, South Manchester NHS Trust: to be Chaplain, Burnley Healthcare NHS Trust (Blackburn).

The Rev Neil Turton, Rector, Frimley: to be also Rural Dean of Surrey Heath (Guildford).

The Rev Phillip Venter, NSM, St Barnabas, Bethnal Green (London): to be Assistant Chaplain in Armenia and Georgia and the Archbishop's Apokrisarios to the Catholicos of All Armenians (Europe).

The Rev Sheila Watson, formerly Senior Selection Secretary, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster, and Honorary Assistant, Chelsea Parish Church, St Luke and Christ Church (London): now Adviser in Continuing Ministerial Education (Salisbury).

The Rev David Benge, Vicar, St Leonard, Bootle: to be Curate, St Peter and St Paul, Ormskirk, w special responsibility for Latham Park Chapel (Liverpool).

ON THIS DAY

April 21, 1913

More than 80 years ago a London jury called for electric ambulances to be operated all over the metropolis. On which side of the Thames an emergency occurred could be vitally important.

THE NEED FOR ELECTRIC AMBULANCES

Dr Waldo held an inquest at Southwark on Saturday on the body of Stephen William Kitchener, a wood sawyer, 63, of High-street, Stratford. Evidence was given that Kitchener had apparently been in excellent health. On Wednesday morning he left home about 6 o'clock to go to his work in Bermondsey, and three-quarters of an hour later Police-constable Lewis, of the City Police, found him lying unconscious on the footway of Tower Bridge. An ambulance was procured and Kitchener was taken to Guy's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Coroner.- Being on the City side of the bridge you had the advantage of an electric ambulance. You were able to telephone for it and the ambulance with assistants and all appliances, stimulants, and so forth, were on the scene in a very short period?

Lewis.- Yes, within six or seven minutes, and Guy's Hospital was reached in eight or ten minutes.

The Coroner.- That could not have been done if Kitchener had been found on the Southwark side of the bridge. If that had been the case it would have taken 20 minutes or half an hour to reach the hospital? - Yes.

Dr. Ozanne, of Guy's Hospital, said death was the result of sudden heart failure, and a verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

At an inquest on the body of a woman who had fallen down and fractured a leg, and subsequently died in Guy's Hospital from shock, a constable stated that although the accident occurred within a short distance of a hospital it took a quarter of an hour to get the woman conveyed to the institution.

Dr. Waldo said the case furnished strong proof of the necessity of having electric ambulances provided all over the metropolis.

In returning their verdict of "Accidental death" the jury unanimously expressed the opinion that electric ambulances should be provided throughout the metropolis, and they requested that communications conveying their views should be forwarded to the various authorities.

MANAGEMENT OF A HOSPITAL

The inquiry into the charges of alleged mismanagement at York County Hospital was continued at York on Saturday by Sir Cooper Perry, M.D., of Guy's Hospital. The charges were brought by Dr. Macqueen and Dr. Shepherd, ex-resident medical officers of the institution.

Dr. Gayner, of the honorary medical staff, who last October conducted an inquiry into the case of the man Collier who, it was alleged, was removed to the mortuary when still alive, said that, with a view to preventing any such incident in the future, a new rule had been adopted which provided that no certificate should be given in respect of a death without inspection of the body; and that the final stage of laying-out should not be begun until one hour after the entry of the death in the report book. The Commissioner reminded the witness that the day sister had written a ticket that the man died at 7.30, while they had it in evidence that the night sister had actually been spoken to by Collier at 7.40.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

NEWS

Tory fightback undermined

■ John Major's attempt to launch a fightback as the general election entered its last ten days was undermined by a public clash between Cabinet ministers over Europe and growing speculation about a post-election Tory leadership contest.

As Mr Major prepared today to turn the spotlight away from Europe and back on to education, Kenneth Clarke directly contradicted Michael Howard's claim that the Amsterdam summit in June could threaten Britain's future as a nation state..Page 1

Major offers to advise Blair

■ John Major has offered to give Tony Blair frank and private advice on how to handle negotiations in the European Union. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Major nonetheless says he is confident of winning the election ....Pages 1, 9

Long-range forecast

The long-term weather forecast is freezing, but global warming will give us at least a thousand years of Mediterranean weather first.......................Page 1

Terrorist plot

Police in Northern Ireland have uncovered detailed plans by loyalist terrorists to murder civil servants at the Anglo-Irish secretariat.......................Page 2

Family attacked

A woman and her two young children cowered in terror as animal welfare protesters attacked their home.......................Page 3

Scratchcard relaunch

The National Lottery is to relaunch scratchcards after sales dropped to £14 million in the first week of April.......................Page 5

Propaganda for sale

Government propaganda films are to be marketed by a private company.......................Page 6

Milk of kindness

The fully automated milking parlour, in which cows come to be milked when the urge takes them, is about to change the face of dairy farming.......................Page 7

Not so friendly fire

Tony Blair was riddled by political friendly fire when *The New Yorker*, supposedly an admirer, ripped into his "magisterial vacuity".......................Page 10

Brief encounter

At 1am each day a single keystroke is made on computer in a modern building a few hundred yards from the Houses of Parliament. It sends the "daily brief" to the fax machines of every one of the 639 Labour candidates fighting the election.......................Page 11

Discipline dies hard

There can seldom have been clearer evidence of the control that old party hands are capable of than the speech to the STUC's centenary congress by Mick McGahey. A lifetime in the Communist Party above all inculcates discipline.......................Page 12

New PM for India

After three weeks of political turmoil, India named its new Prime Minister to lead a shaky coalition government.......................Page 13

Netanyahu's fight

Although a legal report rejected a police recommendation that fraud and breach of promise charges be brought against him, Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's right-wing Prime Minister, is fighting for his political survival.......................Page 14

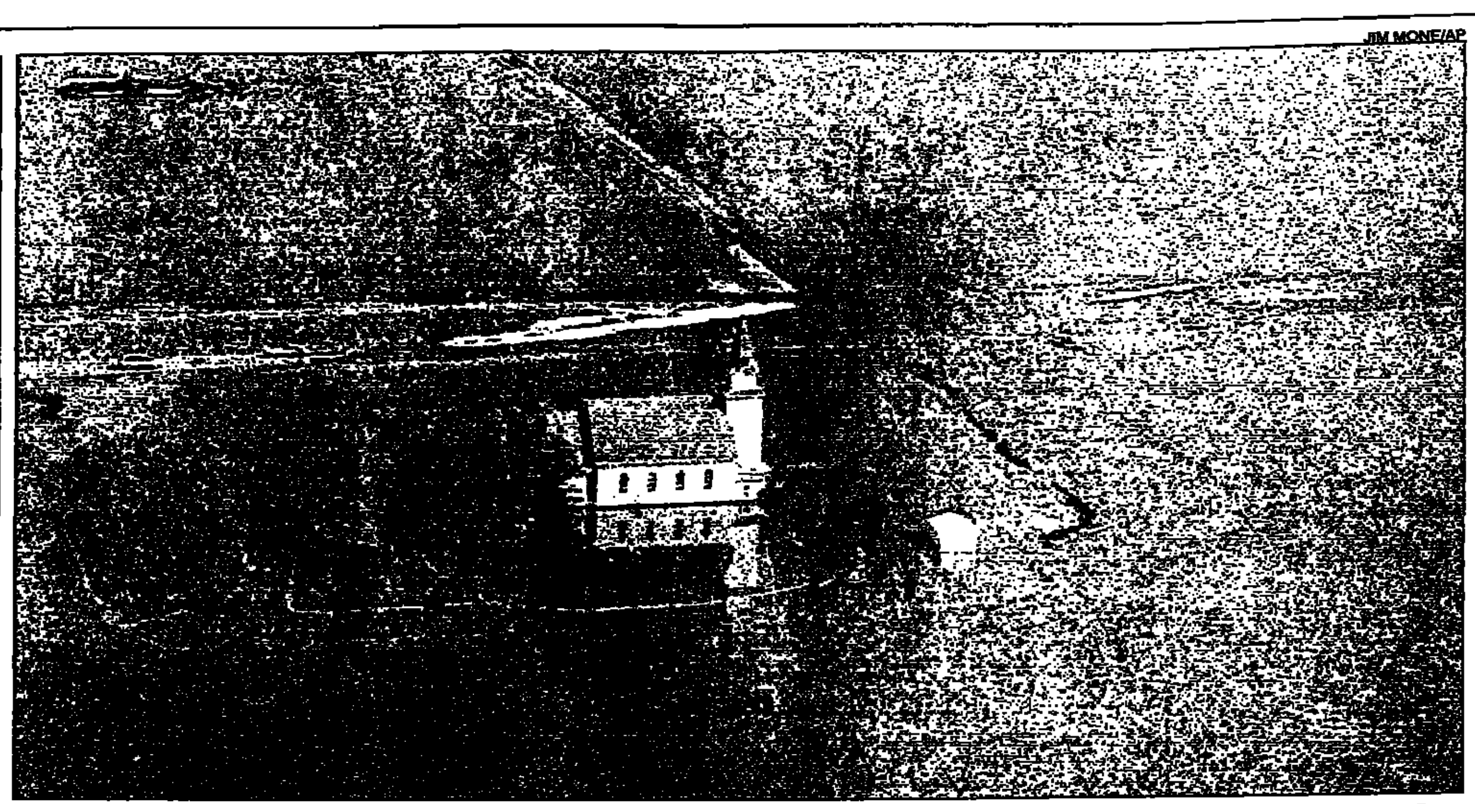
German tax rises

The German Government will soon have to announce drastic measures to boost revenue to stand a chance of meeting the Maastricht treaty criteria for entry into economic and monetary union.......................Page 15

Eels get that sinking feeling

■ Depressed eels are to have their problems examined in a £1 million project organised by the European Commission. Eel farmers have found that the creatures, one of the most expensive delicacies, are turning listless and sinking to the bottom of their tanks. It is thought that attempts to maximise the market have caused stress.......................Page 7

JIM MONE/AP



A church north of Fargo, North Dakota, is isolated after the Red River, swollen by melted snow, burst its banks. Report, page 15

BUSINESS

Unco-operative: Andrew Regan hopes to have his £1.1 billion hostile bid for the Co-Operative Wholesale Society ready this week.....Page 52

Share alert: CrestCo, the new paperless share-dealing settlement system, said it is reasonably confident that it can cope with today's flood of new equity from the £2.8 billion Alliance & Leicester demutualisation.......................Page 52

Halifax row: The Halifax Action Group will mount a protest at today's annual meeting of the Halifax Building Society, its last before its £10 billion stock market flotation.......................Page 49

Advertising split: Cordiant will unveil plans today to break itself into two separately quoted advertising agencies.......................Page 52

ARTS

Winning ways: Melvyn Bragg is impressed by the new wave of young British designers, artists and film-makers who have made a plaything of highly advanced technology.......................Page 20

Moor, please: Vladimir Bogachov makes a triumphant return to the title role of Verdi's *Otello* at Covent Garden, in Elijah Moshinsky's world-class production..... Page 20

Bossa man: The tribute to Antonio Carlos Jobim at the Barbican confirmed that his music is to our era what George Gershwin's was to an earlier generation .... Page 20

Lloyd's risks: Plays are much more difficult to direct than operas, says Phyllida Lloyd. But she thrives on danger, as the cast of Lorca's *Doña Rosita* are finding out .... Page 21

FEATURES

Hip to be hitched: What have Liam Gallagher and Superman got in common? Marriage, that's what. Suddenly, it is no longer cool to cohabit. Joe Joseph, Barry Turner and Tania Kindersley investigate why marriage is making a comeback.......................Pages 18, 19

MIND AND MATTER

Face value: Anjana Ahuja examines a new technique using laser technology that enables facial structure to be mapped. It helps doctors to treat deformities and accident victims ....Page 17

Roots of disease: Evidence is mounting that diseases of the mouth can greatly increase the risk of deadlier afflictions, such as heart disease.......................Page 17

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
How Hitchcock's haunting movie *Vertigo* was restored to dizzy heights

■ LAW
The men and women who will fill the top legal posts if Labour forms the next government

SPORT

Football: The shocking loss of form suffered by David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, overshadowed a crucial win for Manchester United in the FA Carling Premiership match at Anfield .... Page 27, 31

Rugby union: Wasps need only one point from their two remaining games to secure the Courage Clubs Championship title after beating Sale 36-10.......................Page 35

Rugby league: St Helens are the new leaders of the Stones Super League after their 60-16 demolition of Warrington Wolves.......Page 35

Golf: Yorkshireman Stuart Cage showed admirable coolness under pressure to win the Cannes Open at Royal Mougins, his first European Tour victory.......................Page 28

Cricket: Mark Ramprakash underlined his determination to revive his England career by scoring an undefeated 108 for The Rest against England A at Edgbaston...Page 29

Football: Carlisle United won the Auto Windscreen Shield at Wembley when Steve Hayward scored the decisive penalty in the shoot-out after 120 minutes of play had failed to produce a goal.......................Page 33

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 14, 16, 25, 32 and 37. Bonus 11

Two winners share £9.5 million, winning £4,772,183 each. Fifteen get £195,781 each for five balls and the bonus; 656 win £2,797 each for five numbers; 41,635 win £96 each for four numbers, and 868,153 win £10 for three.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The forthright Bernice Cohen turns to the insurance industry. *Mrs Cohen's Money* (Channel 4, 8pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond ponders whether Hogarth (*Hogarth's Progress*) would be consumed by doubt were Pamela Anderson Lee (*New Baywatch*) to sit for him.......................Page 51

OPINION

Unions past

There will be early attempts by some workers to flex dormant muscle. Mr Blair will need to show iron resolve in facing down his supporters if his ambitions are not to be derailed.......................Page 23

Kings of the Balkans

Three pretenders to the throne can still do much to help their struggling countries.......................Page 23

In coming millennia

According to the academics, the future Ice Age would be much worse were it not for the trend towards global warming...Page 23

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Will Hutton's sweeping denunciations of British finance and industry for short-termism have been widely attacked, but have been influential among the less sophisticated on the Left.......................Page 22

MICHAEL BUTLER

We have to learn to work with rather than against our European partners. John Major's Government has failed in this respect. I have been involved at almost every stage of our policy in Europe since 1961, and no previous British Government has been held in such contempt.......................Page 22

OBITUARIES

Stephan Hermlin, German novelist; **Sheila Rothwell**, authority on labour problems.......................Page 25

LETTERS

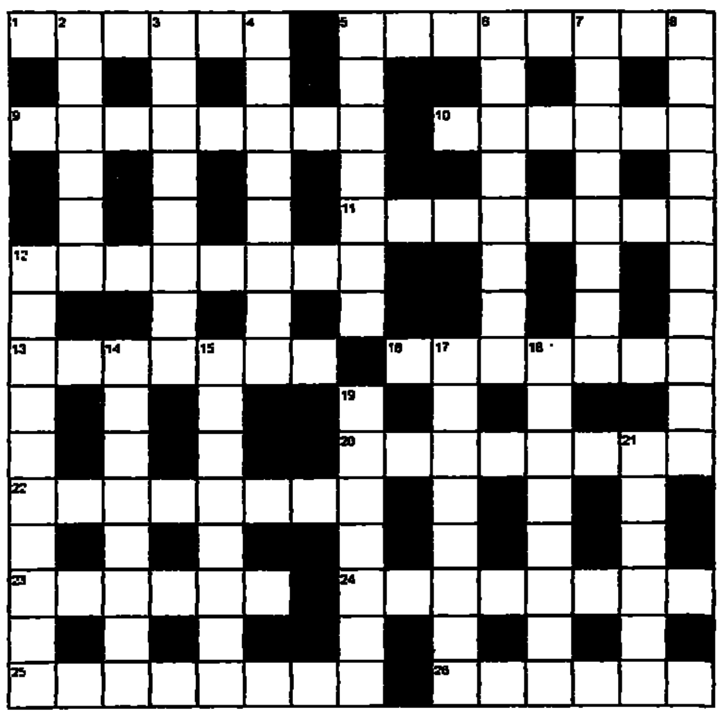
"Prejudice" and the Europe debate; bone marrow donors; alcopops; royal exhibition.......................Page 23

THE PAPERS

The Centre Left government wants Italy to be among the first EU nations to join economic and monetary union. But it is having difficulty getting its budgetary reforms through Parliament. Italy still needs constitutional reform

— *La Stampa*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,459



ACROSS
- 1 Amusing theatrical cat put on beard (6).
- 5 Bob makes a weighty contribution to its timely regulation (8).
- 9 Terrible place the governor will shortly fix (4-4).
- 10 Demanded a collection of books within a day (6).
- 11 Singer in church finally switched line (8).
- 12 Cocaine found by sink in plant (8).
- 13 Drama writer's enclosure for issue (4-3).
- 16 Having an inclination for giving presents (7).
- 20 One watching card-game in centre of New York city (8).
- 22 Denial made when diplomatic mission changes head (8).
- 23 One demonstrated a substance used in making dyes (6).
- 24 Tramp pays to enter (8).
- 25 He heeds points covered by a surgeon (8).
- 26 Collected daughter brought forward in sitting (6).

DOWN
- 2 Peacekeepers still in uniform? On the contrary (6).
- 3 Entering Irish county, see Scottish cow (8).
- 4 Licentious country person initially unpunished (4-4).
- 5 Appropriate homework absorbing half of them? Exactly! (3-4).
- 6 Swift post in Dublin, for example (8).
- 7 Scholars collected American volume at one (8).
- 8 One whose projected aspersions may stick? (10).
- 12 Regularly occurring game mostly held in part of plant (10).
- 14 Growth in Worthing, for example — right now, too! (8).
- 15 Like a Terrier, leave before end of drinking period (4-4).
- 17 State of the Italian floor-covering one's put down (8).
- 18 Applied leverage to secure honour pledged (8).
- 19 Pine, possibly, for nice resort (7).
- 21 Attendant in Paris is carrying French horn (6).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,458 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aberdeen, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Clacton, Essex, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall Airport, Orkney, 0.8in; highest sunshine: Newquay, Cornwall, 12.9hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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See teletext page 354. *From London Stansted.
AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales should start largely dry in southern parts. Rain in northern counties of England and North Wales will gradually work south. Rain will be slight in the South, with some southwestern parts staying dry but cloudy. Rain in Northern Ireland and southern parts of Scotland will turn more showery as cloud breaks up from the north. The clearer skies mean the air will turn noticeably cooler.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** bright or sunny at first, becoming cloudy with scattered outbreaks of light rain. Wind light and variable, becoming mainly westerly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England, NE England:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain, generally light, becoming brighter. Wind northwesterly, light. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals with scattered showers, mainly light. Wind northwesterly, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** clear or sunny intervals with scattered showers, perhaps wintry in the far north. Wind northwesterly becoming northerly, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** showers or longer spells of rain from the North and North West.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

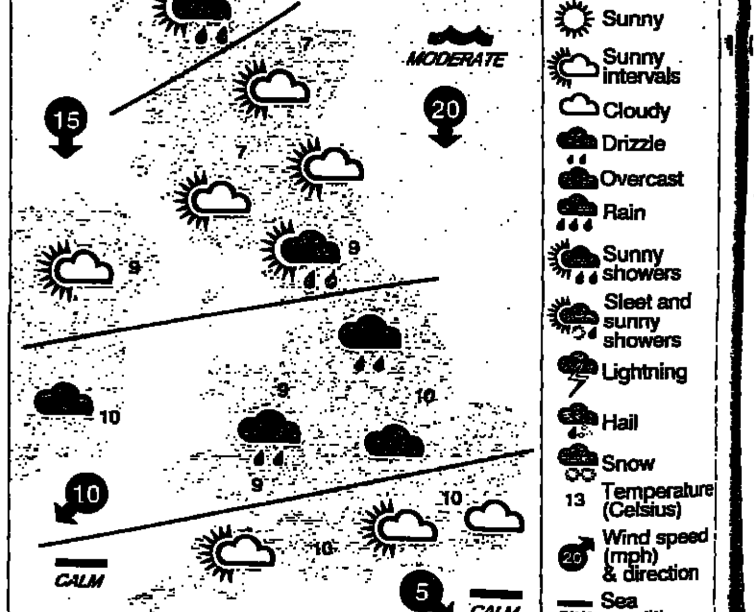
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	10.0	-	15	59	s	Leeds	2.0	-	8	46	c
Anglesey	6.4	0.01	11	52	s	Lerwick	3.4	-	9	48	c
Aspatria	7.0	-	11	52	s	Leuchars	10.0	-	13	56	s
Aviemore	8.7	-	11	52	s	Littlehmptn	8.9	-	9	48	s
Belfast	11.6	-	11	52	s	London	5.5	-	9	48	b
Birmingham	1.8	0.01	8	46	c	Lowestoft	9.8	-	9	48	s
Bognor R	8.3	-	11	52	s	Manchester	2.8	-	9	48	c
Bournem'th	11.8	-	12	54	s	Margate	6.7	-	9	48	b
Bristol	4.3	-	9	48	s	Newcastle	4.4	0.01	11	52	s
Buxton	4.0	-	7	45	b	Newquay	12.9	-	12	54	s
Cardiff	6.3	-	9	48	s	Norwich	5.4	0.01	9	48	s
Clacton	6.4	-	7	45	s	Oxford	1.3	-	9	48	b
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	-	11	52	s
Colwyn Bay	4.0	-	8	46	s	Poole	11.4	-	12	54	s
Cromer	7.0	-	8	46	s	Prestatyn	X	-	11	52	c
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	1.9	-	9	48	b
Eastbourne	8.9	0.01	10	50	s	Ryde	9.9	-	10	50	s
Edinburgh	8.3	-	12	54	s	Salcombe	10.3	-	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	8.4	-	10	50	s	Sandown	9.3	-	10	50	s
Exmouth	9.6	-	11	52	s	Saunton Snd	5.9	-	11	52	s
Falmouth	11.5	-	11	52	s	Scarboro'	2.1	0.01	7	45	c
Fishguard	10.5	-	9	48	s	Shanklin	9.5	-	10	50	s
Folkestone	5.8	-	9	48	b	Shrewsbury	4.0	-	8	46	b
Glasgow	X					Skegness	1.9	-	8	46	c
Guernsey	8.3	0.01	11	52	s	Southport	0.9	-	9	48	b
Hastings	7.3	-	9	48	s	Southsea	8.4	-	11	52	s
Hayling I.	9.0	-	11	52	s	Stornoway	5.2	0.01	10	50	r
Herne Bay	8.7	0.01	8	46	s	Swanage	11.1	-	10	50	s
Hove	7.6	-	11	52	s	Teignmouth	10.2	-	11	52	s
Hunstanton	X					Tenby	8.3	-	10	50	s
Ilfracombe	X					Torquay	11.2	-	12	54	s
Isle of Man	7.4	-	9	48	s	Ventnor	9.2	-	10	50	s
Jersey	8.9	-	11	52	c	West-s-mare	4.0	-	12	54	s
Kinloss	10.4	-	13	55	s	Weymouth	10.1	-	10	50	s

ABROAD

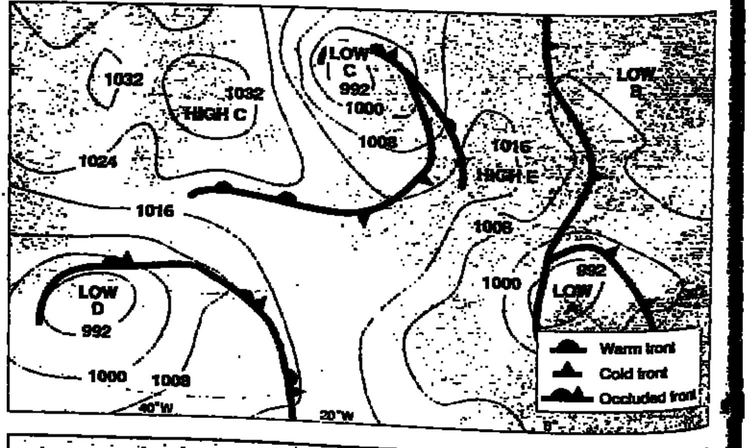
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	18	64	f	Majorca	19	66	c	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	7	45	s	Malaga	16	61	r	S Fr'sco	17	63	r
Alex'dria	32	90	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	19	66	f	S Paulo	28	82	c
Algiers	27	81	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Salzburg	1	34	sn
Amst'dm	7	45	f	Faro	17	63	f	Mexico C	X			Santiago	20	68	s
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	12	54	r	Miami	24	75	s	Seoul	22	72	s
B Aires	24	75	s	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	12	54	c	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	6	43	s	St'kholm	4	39	f
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	9	48	f	Moscow	2	36	c	Strasb'rg	10	50	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	1	34	sn	Sydney	21	70	s
Barcelona	13	55	d	Helsinki	3	37	f	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tangier	19	66	f
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	22	72	c	N York	11	52	s	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Belgrade	19	66	s	Innsbrck	3	37	r	Nairobi	X			Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	7	45	f	Istanbul	14	57	f	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	12	54	c	Toronto	X		
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Oslo	6	43	s	Tunis	25	77	f
Borde'x	15	59	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	10	50	f	Valencia	18	64	c
Brussels	8	46	f	L Palmas	22	72	f	Peking	21	70	s	Vanc'ver	11	52	f
Budapest	2	36	sl	Le Tquet	10	50	f	Perth	23	73	c	Venice	11	52	r
Cairo	35	95	s	Lisbon	19	66	f	Prague	5	41	c	Vienna	3	37	c
Cape Tn	15	59	f	Locarno	8	46	d	Reykjavik	3	37	s	Warsaw	5	41	c
Ch'church	10	50	-	Luxembg	7	45	f	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wash'ton	15	59	s
Chicago	8	46	f	Luxor	36	97	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Wel'ngton	11	52	[illegible]
Cologne	8	46	f	Madrid	X			Riyadh	30	86	f	Zurich	5	41	f

Weekend temperatures at midday local time. X — not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart: high E will drift east and decline; low C will move slowly into Scandinavia and fill; lows A, B and D will move east and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01 54	6.8	14 15	6.9
Aberdeen	01 28	3.9	13 38	3.9
Avonmouth	07 15	12.4	19 36	12.6
Belfast	11 09	3.2	23 34	3.2
Cardiff	07 01	11.5	19.22	11.6
Devonport	05 42	5.3	18 06	5.3
Dover	11.17	6.2	23.31	6.4
Dublin (N Wall)	11 53	3.8	-	-
Falmouth	05 13	5.1	17 37	5.1
Greenock	00 45	3.0	12.44	3.1
Harwich	-	-	12.09	3.8
Holyhead	10 32	5.2	22 51	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	06 31	8.1	18 40	8.3
Ilfracombe	06 05	8.5	18.25	8.7
King's Lynn	06 37	6.1	18 43	6.3

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	02 43	5.0	15 04	5.1
Liverpool	11.24	8.8	23 42	9.0
Lowestoft	09 58	2.3	21 49	2.4
Margate	-	-	12.23	4.4
Milford Haven	06 19	6.4	18.38	6.5
Newquay	05.12	6.4	17.30	6.5
Oban	05.50	3.6	18.22	3.7
Penzance	04 44	5.1	17.02	5.2
Portland	06.43	1.6	19 12	1.7
Portsmouth	11.31	4.3	23.51	4.4
Shoreham	11.24	5.7	23.42	5.9
Southampton	10.57	4.2	23.13	4.4
Swansea	06.30	9.0	18.48	9.1
Tees	03.42	4.9	15 55	5.0
Walton-on-N	-	-	12.03	3.9

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5 52 am
Sun sets: 8 07 pm
Moon sets 5.31 am
Moon rises 6.43 pm
Full moon tomorrow

London 8 07 pm to 5 50 am
Bristol 8 17 pm to 6 00 am
Edinburgh 8.32 pm to 5.50 am
Manchester 8.21 pm to 5.54 am
Penzance 8.26 pm to 6 15 am

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هكذا من الاعلى

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England hopefuls make an impression at Edgbaston
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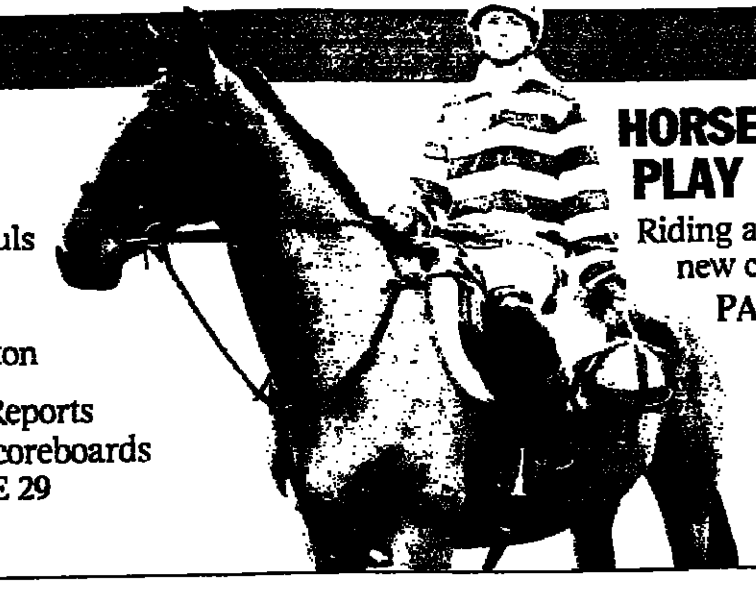

HORSE PLAY
Riding a new craze
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

DEMONS RETURN TO TORMENT LIVERPOOL GOALKEEPER

James stands alone in front of banks of Manchester United supporters after one of his errors helped the champions towards victory and, probably, another Premiership title. Photograph: Marc Aspland

James goes from Tomb to doom

Oliver Holt on an England player undermined by loss of confidence

When his torment was just beginning David James could still see the lighter side. He blamed the three goals that he let in against Newcastle United at the beginning of last month on lapses of concentration caused by his addiction to video games such as Tomb Raider. Six weeks further on his season has descended into a series of ghastly tales from the crypt.

His suffering has become such that discussion of Liverpool's defeat by Manchester United on Saturday, the loss that effectively handed the FA Carling Premiership title to United, has been distilled into an examination of two more mistakes by James.

Exposed by the failings of his defence, and particularly Mark Wright, he was powerless to prevent Gary Pallister's first goal thudding into the back of his net. Later in the first half he produced a fine save from Johnsen, but then, seconds later, rushed from his goal to try to punch away a corner only to see it flicked past him by Pallister.

Later in the first half he brought back memories of the more eccentric moments of his predecessor, Bruce Grobbelaar, when he rushed out of his area to try to clear a bouncing through ball and, hopelessly committed, ended up heading thin air. He escaped, but worse was to come.

So inept was his attempt to push Gary Neville's high, swirling cross out of the path of Andy Cole, a failure that led directly to United's third and decisive goal in their 3-1 victory, that the notion of collective responsibility for such a critical and crushing defeat has been discarded in deference to a tirade of criticism against one man.

The next blow to his confidence may come today when Glenn Hoddle names his squad for England's World Cup match against Georgia on April 30, although Roy Evans, his manager at Anfield, said that he hoped that James would keep his place. "They don't want to knock him down further," he said.

He had already been branded "James the Worst" after his faltering performance against Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg ten days ago and yesterday he was treated to more of the same. "Calamity James", two newspapers labelled him. "Jessie James" was the version of the one that called him a "cowboy keeper".

The United supporters standing behind the goal where he committed his final *faux pas* were just as cruel, of course. "David James, superstar," they sang amid their triumphant laughter, "drops more balls than Grobbelaar." When they grew tired of that, they yelled "dodgy keeper" at him over and over again.

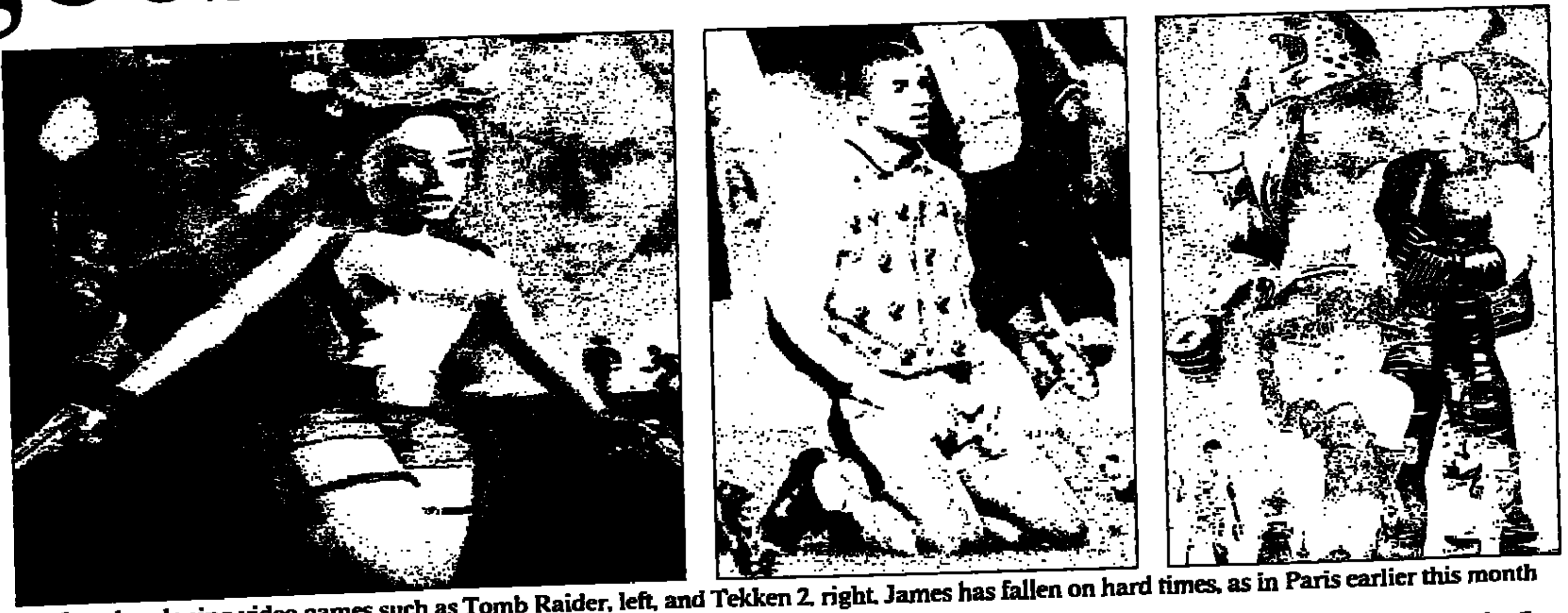
James's troubles began early in March when Newcastle United visited Anfield. He had been in such superb form all season that he had forced himself into the England reckoning and Hoddle had come to watch him. Liverpool won a thrilling match 4-3, but James was at fault for all the Newcastle goals.

Five days later James dropped a free kick away at Nottingham Forest and Ian Woan scored to give his struggling team a draw. James was still selected to play for England against Mexico last month, but, although he kept a clean sheet, he made a hash of several catches.

Then, against Coventry City at Anfield a week later, he rushed out of his goal to try to catch a corner and could only watch as Dion Dublin gave Coventry a shock win. Four days after that he was to blame for two of the three goals that have given Paris such a commanding advantage in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final.

Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool defender who played for so long in front of Grobbelaar, said on Saturday night that he thought James should be dropped. "He is transmitting his uncertainty to the rest of the defence," he said. The problem is that James has been an ever-present in the side for more than two years and Tony Warner, his understudy, is untried.

"In the last two games, I thought he had come out of it," Evans said, "but, as a goalkeeper, when every mistake you make seems to end up in the back of the net, it is difficult. Let's not forget that, for eight months of the season, he was fantastic. You ask other goalkeepers and they will put him up there with the best. It is a matter of now working at his game and keeping at it. It is not a time to go and hide."



After abandoning video games such as Tomb Raider, left, and Tekken 2, right, James has fallen on hard times, as in Paris earlier this month

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United triumph, page 31
Steve McManaman, page 31
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Scots put accent on memorable soundbites

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

For the first time in his Sky Sports life, Richard Keys was in danger of underselling an event: "It won't decide where the title is going, but we will have a better idea afterwards." It was accurate rather than memorable and, after a brief flurry of early commercials, somebody decided that Keys could probably do better. "This is it, the one we have all been waiting for — it's a must-win for Liverpool, it would be a great win for Manchester United." That was more like it — more like Sky anyway.

The morning kick-off that caused havoc with so many domestic arrangements also caused trouble for the satellite broadcaster. Normally, it prides itself on opening up a good hour before kick-off, on giving the sort of comprehensive build-up that its terrestrial rivals never have time for. On Saturday, with its morning schedules packed with immovable regulars, Sky had 15 minutes. It was just like watching the BBC.

In fact, it was very like watching the BBC. Sometimes Sky runs into trouble with its policy of having studio guests chosen for their allegiances rather than their eloquence, but for Liverpool v Manchester United, you do not have to look too hard for former players who qualify, more or less, on both counts. Emlyn Hughes and Steve Bruce duly cantered through the necessary talking points — Schmeichel's return, Fowler's sending off, James's form — but categorically refused to agree with Keys's somewhat disingenuous contention that the championship was still open whatever the result.

No, said Hughes, who clearly thought his flagging media profile could be rescued by being forthright: "If United win, it's all over." The rather more amenable Bruce agreed. Keys looked rather disappointed and understandably so. Having the FA Carling Premiership decided on the final day of the season has been big box office for Sky in recent years.

Typically, it was Andy Gray who came up with the moment of instant history: "I think we've just seen the mistake that has handed the title to Manchester United," he announced, as Andy Cole celebrated his good fortune and the Sky director searched for more crowd shots. Typically, because Scottish summarisers are on something of a roll at the moment. Gray had Saturday morning, Alan Hansen had two bites at Saturday evening and who should pop up alongside Rob Hawthorne for the Auto Windscreens Shield final on Sky Sports 3 yesterday afternoon, but Alan Brazil.

The question is, is this because they were all great players, or is it — as William McIlvanney (brother of Hugh) put it a few weeks ago — because of the unique ability of the Scottish accent to make ordinary sentences sound memorable, to add urgency and authoritative conviction to almost anything? Anyone in any doubt only had to listen to Barry Fry's characteristically pithy comments at Wembley yesterday. "What do you think of it? " he was asked. "Not much."

Hansen and Fry combined to similar comic effect in *The Sack Race* on Saturday night, in which Hansen looked at the stresses of football management and Fry shouted "Oo'ze on the far post?" a lot and talked about the problems of having to remortgage his house whenever his club was in trouble.

This was a lightweight but enjoyable treatment of a subject that could have sustained a more serious approach. Hansen had called in favours from new and old friends alike and the likes of Ruud Gullit, Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness and Bobby Robson duly rolled up and told us . . . virtually nothing that we did not know already. In the case of Dalglish and Souness, two men who surely know more about the stress of management than anyone, that was unforgivable. Of Kevin Keegan, the third former Liverpool player to know all about high anxiety, there was no sight.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kocinski closes in on superbike title

JOHN KOCINSKI, of America, tightened his grip on the superbike world championship with a victory and a second place in the second round of the series in San Marino yesterday. Kocinski, riding a Castrol-Honda, lost out to Pier Francesco Chili, of Italy, in the opening race, but dominated the second race and now has a 14-point advantage over Carl Fogarty, of Great Britain, who had to settle for third place in each race.

Michael Doohan maintained his 100 per cent start to the new season by winning the 500cc Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. Doohan, who won the opening race of the season in Malaysia last week, led a clean sweep by the Honda works team on its home track. Alex Criville, of Spain, finished second with Tadayuki Okada, of Japan, third.

Bedfordshire win title

NETBALL: England captains, past and present, loomed large in the English counties league first division title race, with a former holder of the post, Kendra Slawinski, steering Bedfordshire to a surprise championship win. Essex Metropolitan, meanwhile, captained by Fiona Murtagh, Slawinski's successor, were nudged into second position, with Middlesex third. In the second division, Kent took the title while third-division honours went to Durham North. Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire are relegated from the first division, while West Yorkshire and Lancashire drop out of the second division.

Tables, page 38.

Ward goes unrewarded

BOWLS: Bill Ward, from the Avon Valley club, took part in two national indoor championships at the weekend with limited success. Avon Valley failed to reach the mixed fours quarter-finals at York, an event won by Boston, and Ward then partnered his son, Nick, at the father and son pairs event in Camberley, where they were defeated by Jim and Daran O'Toole, of Wey Valley, the eventual winners.

Yates at the double

CYCLING: Sean Yates underlined his blistering form since he retired from continental racing to compete in British time trials again with two victories over the weekend (Peter Bryan writes). He has seven wins from seven starts and yesterday set a record of 51min 51sec in the Elite CC 25 mile event. On Saturday, he won the West Kent ten miles trial in 20min 22sec. Matthew Illingworth was second in both trials.

Arsenal back on top

FOOTBALL: Arsenal went back to the top of the women's premier league with a 4-1 win over Everton yesterday. The victory means that Arsenal, back in front on goal difference, will be close to securing the championship if they defeat Liverpool next Sunday. Broadhurst scored twice, with Arsenal's other goals coming from Yankie and White. Marley scored for Everton.

Close shave for Jansher

SQUASH: Jansher Khan fought back from two match-balls down in the third game to clinch a thrilling *Mutualité Français* Tour title against Rodney Eyles, of Australia, in Bordeaux. The world champion clinched the tie break and went on to defeat Eyles, the world No 2, 12-15, 11-15, 15-14, 15-4, 15-4. It was the closest Eyles has been to Jansher since beating him in the Hong Kong Open final last September.

Gold goes to Sweden

CURLING: Sweden beat Germany 6-3 to take the gold medal in the men's final at the world curling championships in Berne yesterday. A double take-out across the length of their "house" for four shots at the seventh end gave victory to the Swedes. Scotland won the bronze by beating Canada in the ninth end.

Krajicek starts engine

TENNIS: Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, overcame frustration with the quality of his service to beat Lionel Roux, of France, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the final of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday. "My service is the engine of my game," Krajicek said. In the women's singles final, Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, beat Amy Frazier 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

GOLF

Cage holds his nerve to emerge victorious

From Mel Webb in Cannes

A LESSER man might have buckled under the strain, but they breed them tough in Yorkshire and Stuart Cage, son of Leeds, was not for breaking. There were a couple of bursts of extraordinary scoring from down the field in the final round of the Cannes Open yesterday and pressure, too, from more obvious quarters at the top of the leaderboard, but Cage repelled them all to win with a total of 270, 14 under par.

Cage, 23, had a closing 66 to become the fourth first-time winner on the PGA European Tour this season. He beat Paul Broadhurst and David Carter by five strokes and Jamie Spence and Paul Eales by six.

One of two unexpected challenges came from Spence, who had a 61, ten under par, but was denied a course record by the fact that the players were playing with preferred lies after heavy overnight rain on this part of the French Riviera.

Spence had ten birdies, including seven on a front nine of 28 strokes. He has been playing like an expert and scoring like a learner all season and described his round as "incredible", which, if anything, erred on the side of modesty.

The other surprise package was Carter, who, seven weeks after brain surgery, came in with a 62 — nine birdies, no bogeys — that equalled his score in the second round of this tournament last year. That remains the record for the Royal Mougins course, but, given the backcloth against which this round was played, it was possibly even more remarkable.

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

270: S Cage 68, 67, 69, 66. 275: D Carter 68, 74, 71, 62; P Broadhurst 68, 70, 69, 68. 276: J Spence 74, 72, 69, 61; P Eales 72, 65, 70, 69. 278: P McGinley 72, 68, 70, 68; C Whitelaw (SA) 71, 71, 68, 68. 279: C Suneson (Sp) 73, 69, 69, 68; N Briggs 71, 69, 70, 69; A Coltart 71, 70, 69, 69; A Sandywell 76, 67, 67, 69. 280: A Sherborne 69, 74, 72, 65; B Tinning (Den) 72, 68, 73, 67; P Walton 70, 73, 66, 71; S Luna (Sp) 70, 66, 73, 71. 281: F Valera (Sp) 72, 69, 74, 66; M Jonzon (Swe) 72, 71, 69, 69; P Curry 72, 72, 68, 69; B Lane 75, 69, 67, 70; R Rafferty 74, 70, 67, 70. 282: P Linhart (Sp) 71, 73, 73, 65; A Mednick (Swe) 75, 70, 72, 65; D Howell 72, 72, 71, 67; H Clark 70, 75, 69, 68; P Fulke (Swe) 74, 70, 69, 69; D Hospital (Sp) 74, 70, 67, 71; R Muntz (Holl) 68, 73, 69, 72; M Gronberg (Swe) 71, 71, 66, 74. 283: D Smyth 72, 69, 75, 67; T Bjorn (Den) 71, 68, 73, 71

Carter came into this tournament not knowing how he would perform after his long lay-off caused by a brain virus. He was found in a Dubai hotel by two fellow players and had to have fluid drained from his skull. Even now, he suffers from impaired short-term memory. "It's a miracle I'm even alive," he said. "To come here and shoot another 62 is unbelievable. I'm ecstatic."

Cage, meanwhile, was blissfully unmoved by all the emotion with which the environs of Royal Mougins were awash. He had a job to do and, apart from a couple of bogeys on the 7th and 9th, he was calmness personified. He was the only man in the field to break 70 in all four rounds and was not headed for the last 38 holes.

The former Walker Cup man has had an undistinguished season — before this tournamament, he had played eight times, missed five cuts, withdrew with a stomach bug in the South African Open and finished tied for 29th and 37th in the other two.

That is hardly the form of a man who had taken this tournament by the scruff of the neck before the weekend arrived. He must have been wondering when he came to France this week when, and even how, he was going to pull a decent finish out of the bag. When was yesterday, how was a mixture of straight driving, accurate long-iron play and a dead aim on and around the greens.

Cage, the English Amateur champion in 1992, could not have hoped for a better start. He had three birdies in the first six holes to lead by four shots. The defining moment of the whole day might have been the 7th, when Eales, playing with Cage in the last group, made a birdie putt and Cage dropped a shot. The two-stroke swing put Eales within two of the leader.

But the moment soon passed and, although Broadhurst and Eales were briefly one shot behind, when Cage let another shot slip away on the 9th, his inward half was an object lesson in coolness under fire. Four times — on the 10th, 12th, 15th and 16th — he sank putts for birdies.

"It's like a dream come true," he said. He was right — dreams do not come much better than this.

ALLSPORT

Cage, the winner by five shots in Cannes, drives an iron down the fairway at the 2nd yesterday

SWIMMING: ERROR ON ENTRY FORM PROVES TO BE COSTLY FOR BRITON

Smith denied golden opportunity

From Craig Lord
in Gothenburg

JAMES HICKMAN had already secured one bonus, £5,000 from a sponsor, for winning the 200 metres butterfly title, Britain's first, at the world short-course championships here on Saturday. Yesterday, he celebrated by becoming the first Englishman to swim inside two minutes over the 200 metres medley, his 1min 59.49sec placing him fourth in a closing session that saw Mark Foster win a silver medal and Graeme Smith and Susan Rolph add bronze medals to the British tally.

It could scarcely have been a more successful weekend for Dave Calleja, the Stockport coach of Hickman and Smith — who could have been wearing his own gold medal if British swimming officials had paid more attention to the conditions of entry for the championship.

Smith finished third in the 1,500 metres freestyle in 14mins 46.85sec, a time he recorded several hours before the final heat of what was a heat-declared-winner event. An Olympic bronze medal-winner last year over 1,500 metres, Smith had been forced to swim in a slow heat in the morning instead of the last heat in the evening because his only short-course swim this winter was a slow effort last December. Had he not swum that race, he could have entered with a converted long-course time and would have been placed in the later heat last night, with Grant Hackett, of Australia, who won in 14min 39.54sec.

"I blame myself. I should have checked the entry form," Calleja said. Smith blamed "well-paid British officials" who "should have looked after our interests". The swimmer, who would also have earned a sponsor's £5,000 bonus had he won the gold, added: "There was just no one to race in the morning."

The British successes were accompanied by the frustration of knowing that had Foster, the silver medal-winner in the 50 metres freestyle, and Rolph, the bronze medal-winner in the 200 metres medley, found their best form, they would be world champions.

As it was, Foster lost out to Francisco Sánchez, of Venezuela, in a battle of stamina and strength. Foster, the 1993 champion, had a powerful edge over Sánchez, the winner last year and in 1995, at the halfway point of the two-length race, but Sánchez, already the winner of the 100 metres, found the faster finish to come home in 21.80sec, compared to Foster's 22.03sec, the Briton's time slower than his morning heat and his 1993 victory.

Rolph, of Newcastle, could not find the form that saw her win the European short-course title in December. Yesterday, she finished third in 2min 12.39sec, with Louise Karlsson, of Sweden, first in 2min 11.19sec and Martina Moravcova, of Slovakia, second in 2min 11.21sec.

MOTOR SPORT

Menu maintains fine start

By Mark Fogarty

BY EXTENDING his winning sequence to four at Silverstone yesterday, Alain Menu, the Swiss driver, improved his prospects of finally winning the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship, in which he has finished runner-up for the past three years.

After his domination of the opening two rounds at Donington Park three weeks ago, Menu was again unchallenged in his Williams-run Renault Laguna, outgunning the Volvo S40 of Rickard Rydell in both 20-lap, 45-mile races. Rydell, third in the championship for the past two years, was quick to point out that there are still 20 races to go, but Menu's unbeaten start bodes well for his chances.

In two of the past three years, the champion has been the driver who notched up a string of early victories, establishing a buffer that enabled him to protect his points advantage against increased competition later in the series.

In 1994, Gabriele Tarquini, of Italy, established a decisive lead by winning the first five races, while Frank Biela, of Germany, laid the foundations of his championship success with victories in three of the first four races.

Menu has established a lead of 25 points over Rydell, although the situation is not quite as daunting for the Swede as the figures suggest because a revision to the scoring system this year allows drivers to drop their worst two scores.

In the first race, Rydell, after taking several laps to force his way past his unhelpful teammate, Kelvin Burt, only just failed to overhaul Menu. However, this was more a measure of Menu's calm calculation than a desperate defence on the run to the flag.

The second race was more representative of the Renault's superiority, with Menu winning by 3.187sec. Rydell put a brave face on his third defeat, arguing that his Volvo S40, new for this year, has untapped potential, whereas the Renault Laguna is entering its fourth season.

David Leslie finished third in the first race in his Nissan Primera, an excellent effort for a car in the very early stages of its development.

Menu's team-mate, Jason Plato, who squandered his pole position for the first race by stalling at the start, made amends by securing third in the second event. Robb Gravett, the 1990 British touring car champion, won both rounds of the Total Cup for independent (non-works) entrants on his return to competition in a Honda Accord.

BASKETBALL

Nurse may report for duty again

By Nicholas Harling

THE failure of Birmingham Bullets to reach Wembley to defend their Budweiser championship may provide Nick Nurse with the incentive to return to the club as coach next season. Had Birmingham taken the play-offs again, the 29-year-old from Iowa may have decided there was no challenge left for him with the club.

"Right now, I think I will be back," Nurse said after 36 hours of reflecting on the 81-78 loss to Chester Jets in the National Indoor Arena that gave the Jets a 2-1 aggregate win in the quarter-final series. "Good luck to Chester. They were destined to get to Wembley, just like we were destined to be there and win it last year."

The two defeats by Chester followed three reverses in the final four games of the regular season. "That run darkened the very bright things we had been achieving the rest of the season," Nurse said, recalling a sequence of 11 successive victories. "We ran out of gas."

Indeed they did. But for a home defeat by the Leopards three weeks ago, Nurse and not Billy Mims might have been lifting the glass bowl that goes to the champions.

Harry Wrublewski, the Birmingham chairman, has left Nurse in no doubt that reinforcements will be available if required. "We have unbelievable sponsorship [from Peugeot] and crowds. We are so financially viable, we must be the envy of every other club in the country," Nurse said.

HOCKEY

High-scoring Hall lifts the holders

By Sydney Friskin

DANIEL HALL, of Guildford, scored nine goals in two days as Surrey, the holders, reached the semi-finals of the county championship with maximum points from four pool matches at Surbiton.

Surrey ended their campaign in the A division yesterday with a 7-1 win against Somerset, who were level at 1-1 at the interval but fell apart in the second half as Surrey took control with Wood, of Richmond, scoring three goals. The other scorers for Surrey were Sexton, Tinkler, Hall and Notton, of Surbiton, who finished with a total of seven. Naughty scored Somerset's goal.

The Army, who avoided relegation with a 3-2 win against Hampshire yesterday, put up a game fight against Surrey on Saturday, but lost 6-3.

Cambridgeshire finished second, Somerset third, the Army fourth and Hampshire fifth in this pool. Lancashire, Cheshire and Sussex joined Surrey in the semi-finals in A division after emerging pool winners at Crosby, Telford and Cannock, respectively. Durham, Shropshire and the Royal Air Force, along with Hampshire, will play in the B division next year.

Norfolk, Leicestershire, Devon and Suffolk, qualified for the semi-finals of the B division. The semi-finals and final will be at Milton Keynes on May 3 and A division matches will take place at the same venue the next day.

Aldridge and Poynton taste success

By a Correspondent

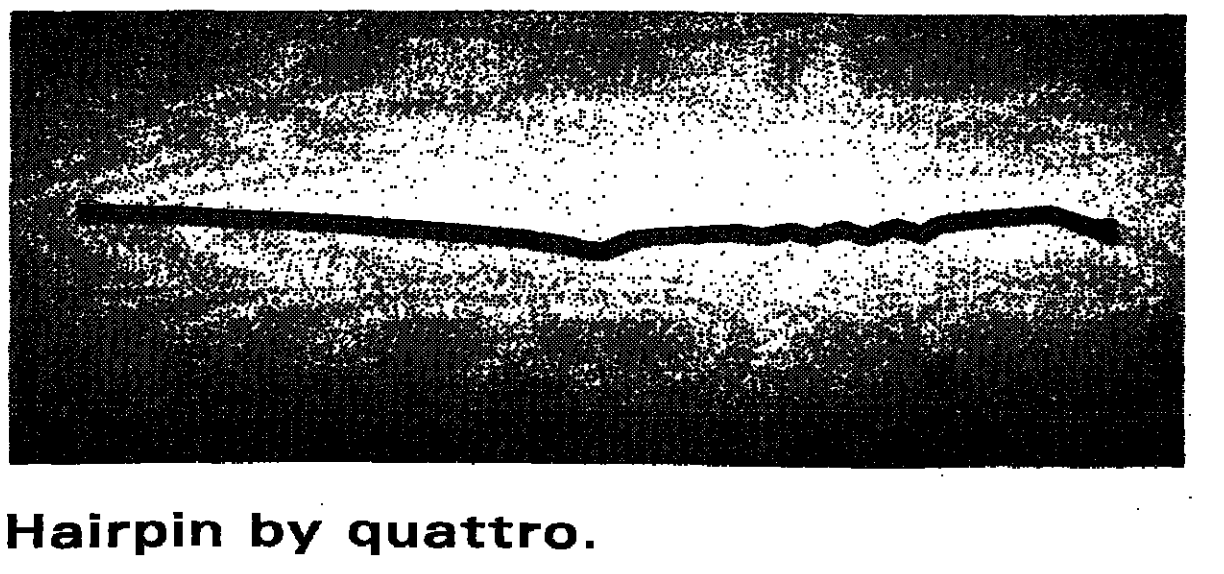
IT WAS worth the wait. After two previous unsuccessful attempts at the women's National League play-offs, Poynton finally triumphed and will join Aldridge in the second division next season, after the two qualified from the five regional winners at Milton Keynes.

Aldridge showed the value of their brief experience in the top flight last season, emerging from their four matches with an unbeaten record. It was a different story, though, for Poynton, who had to wait for the result of the final match between Aldridge and Tulse Hill to determine whether or not they progressed.

With the start delayed for two hours because of a faulty watering system, two late goals, including a penalty corner by Jane Hampshire, put Poynton out of their misery as Aldridge won 2-0.

It was nail-biting stuff for Poynton, who had earlier beaten Bury St Edmunds, when Daniels scored a last-minute winner after the Suffolk team had recovered to level the scores at 2-2 two minutes from time through a Sharp penalty corner.

Ireland won the four nations' tournament in Cardiff when Burke scored five goals in her side's crushing 7-0 win against Slovakia yesterday. Wales also finished on a winning note with a comfortable 5-0 victory over Poland, but finished second behind Ireland after losing 4-1 to them on Saturday.



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CRICKET

Bowlers fail to advance claims for promotion

By Simon Wilde

EDGBASTON (third day of four): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 144 runs ahead of The Rest

IF THE purpose of the Tetley's Shield match is to act as an *opportunity for the most promising players outside the* England Test circle to stake their claims for further promotion, it threatens to be only half successful. The batsmen are showing themselves in a good light, but the bowlers are not.

Frustratingly, this confirms where England's strengths and weaknesses are perceived *to lie and may leave David* Lloyd, the national coach, who is supervising the sides here, with precious little encouragement for the series against Australia. The bowlers have failed to put the ball consistently *into the right* area, although Simon Brown redeemed a poor first-innings display by moving the ball around dangerously last night to claim three good wickets.

League results 38
Fresh innings 39

At the other end, Silverwood *epitomised the failings of the seam bowlers by producing* one of the most wayward spells of his career. Perhaps over-anxious to do well, he repeatedly dropped the ball short and wide, prompting a *show of pitch-stamping* frustration.

Equally perplexing, one or two of the deliveries that he pitched up scuttled through low, suggesting that the pitch is not as benign as the *high scoring in the first two innings would imply. There is a green* tinge to it and Ramprakash, captaining The Rest, did choose to field first, so presumbly he thought there *was something* in it for the bowlers. Edgbaston's reputation for producing unreliable surfaces for the important occasion has not yet been laid to rest.

Ramprakash was the chief beneficiary of the bowlers' generosity yesterday. Under pressure to demonstrate that he is capable of succeeding at levels above the county championship, he scored an admirably *composed century*, technically flawless and full of good strokes. He has clearly benefited from a relaxed winter away from the limelight, playing for the University of Western Australia in Perth; *now, at 27, it may be time for* Ramprakash *to return to* centre stage.

"He played very well and he is maturing as a player," Lloyd said later. "He has performed under pressure as captain and gone out and got a good hundred."

He certainly ensured a miserable afternoon for Chapple, whose good figures of Saturday were spoiled by *nine overs* yesterday that cost 62. Chapple has taken the decision to bleach his hair, in the style of Ian Botham during his *Hollywood period.*

Perhaps the best batting of the match took place while Ramprakash and Warren were taking turns to drive the ball through the off side. Both *reached their half-centuries* off 90 balls.

On one occasion, Warren took one step down the pitch to Ealham and lifted the ball effortlessly over point for six and it was a shame that he *ended his stay so ingloriously*, tamely steering one of Gallian's gentle seamers into the hands of second slip.

This pair added 101 for the fifth wicket after The Rest had *appeared in difficulty at 137* for *four, Headley having taken* the first two wickets to fall in the day. Silverwood had resumed his nightwatchman duties by thumping the ball for *43 of the first 48 runs before his leg stump was knocked* back several yards, while Maddy, who had watched this merriment from the other end, was smartly caught by Butcher at first slip.

Ramprakash subsequently shared another enterprising century stand with Ben Hollioake before declaring at tea, 103 in arrears. Ramprakash was unbeaten on 108 after four hours, Hollioake on 50 — and, on this reckoning, is a more cultured player than his elder brother and perhaps a no less effective one.

The expectation was that England A would bat in untroubled *fashion* before making a third declaration today, but Brown's incisive spell changed that. He extracted a leg-before verdict against Butcher despite umpire Bird's right eye *being half-closed by* a large black bruise, courtesy of an accident with a showerhead.

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT

Ramprakash on his way to an unbeaten century at Edgbaston yesterday. Hegg is the wicketkeeper

Stephenson century completes tutorial

By Michael Henderson

THE PARKS (second day of three): Hampshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 109 runs ahead of Oxford University

WHAT on earth was the Oxford stumper, Scrini, up to on Saturday? It was perishing in The Parks and yet all the *protection he favoured against* the wind, and that only after a sweaterless morning, was the sleeveless sort that cricketers often wear when it is cracking the flags in high summer. It *was an extraordinary act*, and almost a heroic one.

At this stage of the season, it would be unfair to say that any cricket is pointless — teams have still to be forged in the fire of competition — but *there was not much discernible* purpose to the proceedings here. Hampshire laboured to 352 for three on a friendly pitch against bowling that aspired to the modest and *occasionally reached* that mark.

For the Hampshire captain, John Stephenson, it was at least a fresh start. Last year, upon inheriting the captaincy *from Mark Nicholas, he mis*laid his form utterly and failed to make a century. He duly took a hundred on Saturday, sharing century partnerships with James and Keech, who *resumes this morning* seven runs short of his own hundred.

If Stephenson keeps a diary, his entry on Saturday night would not have detained him long. "Flogged the students," it *might have read. Only Averis*, who is on Gloucestershire's books and hoping to add a cricket Blue to the one he took in rugby, was up to the task. He has a lively action and took *all three wickets to fall.*

The first wicket occasioned that exchange of palms known as the "high fives" and, to take a charitable view, it was one way of keeping warm. One would have to be very charitable *indeed to account for the* Oxford player strolling round the outfield at the tea interval nattering away on a mobile phone. The young always find ways of surprising their elders, *but this was a thoroughly disagreeable surprise.*

Here's one to ponder in the days ahead. It comes from Edward Pearce, writer on politics and other matters, and *who shivered in The Parks on* Saturday. "To appreciate cricket, you have to take a long breath."

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 243 for 9 dec (P G Morgan 60).

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c Morgan b Averis	14
*J P Stephenson c Patel b Averis	140
K D James c Lightfoot b Averis	53
M Keech not out	93
Extras (b 12, lb 8, w 16, nb 16)	52
Total (3 wkts)	352

W S Kendall, P R Whitaker, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, A D Mascarenhas, C A Connor and S M Milburn to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49, 2-179, 3-352

BOWLING: Averis 22.5-5-74-3; Patel 22-5-71-0; Hudson 18-5-55-0; Byrne 10-1-32-0; Wagh 23-5-50-0; Mather 9-1-50-0

Umpires: J H Harris and N A Mallender

Smith deserves his first-class honours

By Pat Gibson

FENNERS (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Leicestershire

JAMES WHITAKER, the Leicestershire captain, was not prepared to take any chances with his team's morale just three days before they begin *the defence of their county championship* against Gloucestershire at Grace Road on Wednesday.

Rather than set Cambridge University a realistic target and risk a defeat that might *have dented their self-esteem*, he settled for batting practice, primarily for himself, to bring an unsatisfactory conclusion to a match that had presented arguments for and against the *first-class status of university cricket*.

The case in favour has been put eloquently by Ed Smith, Kent's stylish England Under-19 batsman, who, like Michael Atherton and John Crawley *before him, is making the best* possible use of his time at Cambridge, when he is not reading history.

Smith, who scored centuries against two county sides *last season, yesterday* advanced from his overnight 142 to 190, compiled in 409 minutes from 339 balls with 27 fours, before he was bowled heaving across the line against *Parsons*.

Ten more runs would have made him the first Cambridge batsman to make a double century since Steve Henderson, later to play for Glamorgan and Worcestershire, against Middlesex in 1982.

Smith had made his point, however. Is it not better for a young batsman such as Smith, who has now scored 879 runs in 15 innings at an average of 58.60, to be playing *first-class cricket at this stage* of his career, than be kept waiting for his chance in his county's second XI?

Sadly, the case against these university fixtures was advanced, *wilfully or otherwise*, by Whitaker, who has his own agenda and stuck to it, regardless of the spectators hoping to see a decent game of cricket.

He could have declared at the end of the first day, when Leicestershire were 430 for three, but chose to bat on so that Bakin could complete the second first-class hundred of *his career. He could have* declared again yesterday, when he and Wells were adding to a first-innings lead of 118, but preferred to help himself to a century, only the 36th in a career stretching back *over 14 seasons*.

It came in bizaare circumstances. He had taken two on 99 before going out again after the interval to pick up a single *off the first ball, whereupon he declared, setting the Univ*ersity a notional target of 341 in 31 overs. They did not go for them.

Lamb says restructure plans are still under discussion

By Our Sports Staff

TIM LAMB, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), insisted yesterday that plans to divide the county championship into two divisions of equal standing have not advanced beyond the discussion stage.

Lamb was reacting to reports that Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the ECB, was prepared to resign if the two-division system was not introduced. Lord MacLaurin favours the introduction of a system used by baseball in the United States, which would mean the championship being split into two divisions, with semi-finals involving the two top teams from each division followed by a final at the end of the season.

Lamb said: "We have not definitely come up with any conclusions with regard to the county championship and to try to give that impression would be misleading. No decisions have been taken either about the future of the county championship or any *part of the cricket pyramid*."

In Colombo yesterday, Ijaz Ahmed finished the day ten runs short of a second successive Test century after Pakistan had launched a ferocious assault on the Sri Lanka bowling in the first Test match.

Replying to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 330, Pakistan raced to 200 for two by the *close of the second day*. Ijaz, who scored 125 in his last Test innings against New Zealand at Rawalpindi in December, hit 90 off 186 balls and shared *in a second-wicket stand of* 102 with Rameez Raja, the captain, who made 50. Ijaz's stand with Salim Malik has so far realised 98 runs.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya b Mushtaq Ahmed	31
R P Arnold b Mushtaq Ahmed	24
M S Atapattu c Salim Elahi b Saqlain	0
P A de Silva st Moin b Mushtaq Ahmed	23
*A Ranatunga c Salim Elahi b Asif	49
H P Tillekeratne c Asif b Saqlain	103
†R S Kaluwitharana b Saqlain	57
H D P K Dharmasena b Saqlain	1
W P U J C Vaas c Moin b Mohammad	17
W N M Soysa lbw b Saqlain	0
M Muralitharan not out	8
Extras (b 3, lb 9, w 1, nb 4)	17
Total	330

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-62, 3-84, 4-90, 5-179, 6-268, 7-280, 8-322, 9-322.

BOWLING: Mohammad Zahid 17-2-44-1; Shahid Nazir 18-6-37-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 44.2-10-89-5, Mushtaq Ahmed 34-2-123-3; Asif Mujtaba 9-2-25-1

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Salim Elahi lbw b Vaas	0
*Ramiz Raja c Ranatunga b Dharmasena	50
Ijaz Ahmed not out	90
Salim Malik not out	47
Extras (b 4, nb 9)	13
Total (2 wkts)	200

Inzamam-ul-Haq, Asif Mujtaba, †Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Shahid Nazir and Mohammad Zahid to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-102

BOWLING: Vaas 12-1-33-1; Soysa 10-0-56-0, Dharmasena 17-4-38-1, Muralitharan 10-1-39-0; Jayasuriya 3-0-15-0, De Silva 4-0-16-0

Umpires: U Wickremasinghe (Sri Lanka) and D R Shepherd (England)

FIFTH TEST MATCH: Georgetown: India 194-2 v West Indies. No play on third or fourth days — rain

THE WEEKEND'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Shield

England A v The Rest

EDGBASTON (third day of four): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 144 runs ahead of The Rest

ENGLAND A: First Innings

M A Butcher c Adams b Cosker	153
J E R Gallian c Hollioake b Silverwood	106
M P Vaughan b Tudor	10
A McGrath c Solanki b Hollioake	46
*A J Hollioake not out	70
M A Ealham not out	24
Extras (b 7, lb 20, w 2, nb 15)	44
Total (4 wkts dec)	453

†W K Hegg, P M Such, G Chapple, A J Harris and D W Headley did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-257, 2-271, 3-323, 4-380

BOWLING: Silverwood 25.1-5-100-1; Brown 24-6-79-0; Tudor 27-8-69-1; Hollioake 21-4-65-1; Solanki 12-3-55-0; Cosker 32-8-76-1

Second Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Brown	2
J E R Gallian c Warren b Brown	6
M P Vaughan b Brown	1
A McGrath not out	21
*A J Hollioake not out	4
Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 4)	7
Total (3 wkts)	41

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-32

BOWLING: Silverwood 7-0-22-0; Brown 7-2-16-3

THE REST: First Innings

D L Maddy c Butcher b Headley	34
J S Laney c Hegg b Chapple	0
C J Adams c Gallian b Chapple	35
C E W Silverwood b Headley	44
*M R Ramprakash not out	108
†R J Warren c Hollioake b Gallian	50
V S Solanki c McGrath b Headley	5
B C Hollioake not out	50
Extras (lb 18, w 6)	24
Total (6 wkts dec)	350

D A Cosker, A J Tudor and S J E Brown did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-71, 3-121, 4-137, 5-238, 6-250

BOWLING: Headley 26-9-63-3; Chapple 23-6-77-2; Harris 13-4-44-0; Such 15-1-5[illegible]-0; Ealham 13-3-37-0; Hollioake 5-2-15-0; Gallian 4-0-16-1; McGrath 4-0-15-0

Umpires: H D Bird and R Palmer

University match

Cambridge University v Leicestershire

FENNERS (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c House b P S Jones	[illegible]
I J Sutcliffe b R O Jones	[illegible]
A Habib not out	175
D I Stevens lbw b How	27
J M Dakin not out	101
Extras (b 5, lb 7, nb 8)	20
Total (3 wkts dec)	451

*J J Whitaker, †P A Nixon, D J Millns, J Ormond, M T Brimson and C J Parsons did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-229, 3-273

BOWLING: P S Jones 11.4-0-51-1; How 20-1-96-1; Dawson 12.2-1-64-0; Freeth 13-0-78-0; R O Jones 18-1-70-1; House 22-3-78-0

Second Innings

V J Wells c and b R O Jones	74
*J J Whitaker not out	100
†P A Nixon c House b Freeth	35
I J Sutcliffe not out	12
Extras (b 1)	1
Total (2 wkts dec)	222

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-142, 2-196

BOWLING: How 8-1-40-0; Dawson 3-0-24-0; Freeth 7-1-33-1; R O Jones 13.1-1-77-1; House 9-2-24-0; Hughes 4-0-23-0

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

J R Ratledge lbw b Brimson	23
E T Smith b Parsons	190
*A Singh c Nixon b Ormond	11
W J House lbw b Parsons	7
R O Jones b Ormond	21
Q Hughes c Sutcliffe b Millns	19
M W Dawson lbw b Dakin	12
†D R H Churton not out	30
Extras (lb 8, nb 12)	20
Total (7 wkts dec)	333

P S Jones, J W O Freeth and E J How did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-84, 3-108, 4-134, 5-184, 6-246, 7-333

BOWLING: Millns 13-3-55-1; Parsons 17-4-59-2; Brimson 36-12-93-1; Ormond 23-5-53-2; Dakin 10-1-39-1; Wells 8-1-26-0

Second Innings

J R Ratledge lbw b Brimson	12
Q Hughes not out	18
*A Singh not out	12
Extras (b 4, lb 5)	9
Total (1 wkt)	51

FALL OF WICKET: 1-27

BOWLING: Ormond 5-1-12-0; Dakin 6-4-13-0; Parsons 4-1-16-0; Brimson 3-2-1-1

Umpires: R Julian and M R Benson

County match

Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Lancashire beat Yorkshire by six wickets

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 289 (B Parker 85 not out, M J Wood 81, G Yates 4 for 46). Second Innings 298 (C A Chapman 80; P J Martin 4 for 53)

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 482 (G D Lloyd 225, J D Austin 83)

Second Innings

P C McKeown b Wharf	32
S P Titchard c Wood b Hoggard	14
A Flintoff c Wharf b Batty	18
N H Fairbrother not out	11
G D Lloyd b Wharf	17
*M Watkinson not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 3, nb 8)	12
Total (4 wkts)	106

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-57, 3-83, 4-100

BOWLING: Hamilton 4-2-9-0; Hoggard 7-0-45-1; Wharf 10-1-37-2; Batty 6-0-11-1

Umpires: K E Palmer and R A White

JUDO

Gordon in the mood for revenge

By John Goodbody

THERE is always a particular *incentive for sportsmen* to show that selectors might be wrong, so it was no surprise that the most combustible of the finals at the British Open *championships in Birmingham* at the weekend was the middleweight contest between Ryan Birch, the 1994 European champion, and Winston Gordon, only *21 but* already a *European* junior *bronze medal*-winner.

Gordon is clearly a fighter for the future, but Birch had already been selected for the European championships in Ostend next month, *his* victory over *Gordon in the* British trials *probably proving decisive*.

However, in a fascinating contrast between the more explosive Gordon and the relentless, suffocating style of Birch, there was little between the pair. Gordon was penalised with a passivity point, but levelled *the* scores by knocking Birch down. Another leg *attack* by Gordon, *which just* failed to score, may well *have* been conclusive in winning him the verdict in a split decision.

Britons won four of the seven womens' categories, the best performance *coming* from Kate Howey, *who has* moved back *to middleweight. She threw every opponent* up to *the final* for ippon, the sport's equivalent of a knockout. In the gold-medal fight against Amin Abdellatif, of France, she tumbled her opponent with a *stomach throw* and then forced *her to submit* to an armlock.

SNOOKER: MAZROCIS REFUSES TO BE OVERAWED BY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNER-UP

Below-par Ebdon makes first-round exit

By Phil Yates

PETER EBDON became the first notable casualty of this year's Embassy world championship when, in arguably *the biggest upset* witnessed at the Crucible during the 1990s, he was defeated 10-3 by Stefan Mazrocis yesterday for a place in the last 16.

Ebdon, runner-up to Stephen Hendry *12 months ago, played* well below *his* best, was handicapped by a wretched run of the balls and met a perpetually smiling opponent who unconventionally settled any nerves by consuming several pints of lager *at the* table.

Having been responsible for so many stirring fightbacks, Ebdon's 6-2 overnight arrears were not considered insurmountable, but, from the moment he lost the ninth frame *on the* black after cruelly going in-off when potting the blue, one began to sense it would not be his day.

Mazrocis compiled three half-century breaks *in a scrappy encounter*, but potted key balls in the unusually large amount of frames decided on the colours. Mazrocis, the world No 81, will play Alain Robidoux or Brian Morgan for a place *in the quarter-finals*.

The Crucible swansong of Terry Griffiths could hardly have ended more dramatically, a particularly fitting farewell for a veteran involved in *so many tense moments here since* he was catapulted to national prominence by capturing the title on his debut in 1979.

Griffiths, 49, now concentrating on *his role as director of coaching for the World* Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, displayed trademark tenacity before being beaten 10-9 by Mark Williams. Trailing 5-4 overnight, *Griffiths won five of the following seven* frames and Williams, expected to breeze past his compatriot after overwhelming Hendry 9-2 in the British Open final earlier this month, looked incapable of recovery.

Williams won the seventeenth frame comfortably and drew level at 9-9 by snatching the eighteenth on the black. Griffiths, 56-24 up, had misjudged an attempted plant, Williams fashioned a 31 clearance *to blue and deposited the* last two colours on his next visit. Leading 59-15 in the deciding frame, Griffiths was again tantalisingly close to the winning line. Williams refused *to allow him to cross it*, however, and eventually showed a steely nerve by clearing green to black.

Williams goes forward to provide the second-round opposition for Hendry in the last 16. The title-holder cleared his initial *hurdle* on Saturday *by efficiently* beating Andy Hicks, a semi-finalist in 1995, 10-6. It was the Scot's 26th consecutive match win in the championship. By constructing seven *half-century breaks and a century — his* 39th of the season and the 388th of his career — Hendry underlined the fact that he is delivering the cue straight and true.

On the way to unexpectedly beating Dave Harold 10-7, Lee Walker, the world No 189, maintained the form that enabled him to include two former Crucible winners, Joe Johnson and Dennis Taylor, among his six victims *in the qualifying competition*.

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TABLE TENNIS

Syed's cunning steals the gold from Cooke

MATTHEW SYED became England's first Commonwealth men's singles champion for eight years yesterday when he overcame Alan Cooke, the former *holder*, 22-20 in the fifth *game of one of* the best finals *that* the competition has seen (Richard Eaton *writes*). The pair battled for 1hr 20min at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, before Syed sneaked home 14-21, 21-16, 20-22, 21-18, 22-20.

This triumph by *a more* resolute *player* of backspin and float *against* a vigorous *top-spin looper* provided a *vivid* contrast of styles and encouraged Syed in the belief that, after gaining a first-class degree from Balliol College, Oxford, 21 months ago, he is doing the right thing by delaying a career in finance.

However, *it denied Cooke, 31, who also narrowly lost the men's doubles final*, his *chance of a second gold*. He plans to retire after the world championships that start in Manchester next week.

Cooke had been the inspiration behind England's men's team triumph on Thursday, but now Syed's *cunning deployment of spin and ambushing counter-attack — and sheer refusal to lose* — made him stand out.

Jing Jun-hong, of Singapore, won the women's singles while Lei Jia-Wei, a 15-year-old Beijing schoolgirl, impressed in winning the *women's and mixed doubles*.

BOWLS

Shaw turns tables for final reward

A BRILLIANT trailing bowl *from Norma Shaw, the English champion*, played with *perfect weight*, gave her the British Steel (Tinplate) women's world indoors singles title at Llanelli yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

Caroline McAllister, 29, the Scottish champion, had looked the likely winner, when she led by *two sets to one, and, after the 59-year-old Shaw had levelled at 2-2*, when she led 5-1 in the fifth and deciding set.

Willy Rankin, of Midlothians, achieved his third successive maximum count of eight shots at the CIS *Scottish Cup Final against Irvine on Saturday*.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs lack power to trouble Germans

THE London Monarchs failed *to generate sufficient offensive potency* in Düsseldorf yesterday and paid the price, losing 28-6 to Rhein Fire (Richard Wetherell writes).

While Fire's quarterback, T. J. Rubley, was throwing three touchdown passes, Stan White was replaced by Preston Jones in the final quarter.

After the 14,876 *crowd suffered* a scoreless first half, Rubley, took control and his passes to Mike Dritlein, Bill Schroeder and David Rhodes left the Monarchs with too much to do.

In the final quarter, Jones, who led the Monarchs last season, threw a *28-yard touchdown pass to Alan Allen*, who played for London in 1995. Clive Allen, *the former soccer player*, had no chance to register his first points when the snap for the extra point was fumbled.

A crowd of 14,877, one more than watched the Monarchs, saw the Scottish Claymores lose 20-7 to the Barcelona Dragons, who are *the only unbeaten side in the six-team* league. Tyree Davis and Bryce Burnett scored the Dragons' touchdowns. The Claymores managed a touchdown from Yo Murphy five minutes before the end.

In Frankfurt on Saturday, a crowd of 31,729 saw the Galaxy beat the Amsterdam Admirals 19-10. Bobbie Phillips *running 65 yards for a first*-quarter touchdown.

Men at work.

(See above).

Bass

BEST SELLING PREMIUM
CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Confidence wilts at Riverside Stadium as relegation looms for Robson's expensive team

Middlesbrough plumb new depths of despair

Simon Barnes finds that fatigue and bad luck are leaving an indelible mark

It is all too much. They filed off afterwards, faces drawn, eyes sunk: case studies for students of physical and nervous exhaustion. Observe! See how these two things feed on each other, creating a closed system that brings them ever closer to despair.

Middlesbrough have, in the last couple of weeks, had the Coca-Cola Cup dashed from their lips by Leicester City, first with a late equaliser and then in the replay, with a late winner. They have had a place in the FA Cup Final snatched away, temporarily at least, by Chesterfield with yet another late equaliser.

And now, as they prepare for yet another replay tomorrow, they surrendered three points in this FA Carling Premiership defeat and with it perhaps their place in the top flight. Match after match keeps coming their way, stress after stress. They have five matches left in the Premiership, four of which are away. This was a must-win game. It does not look good.

With their mixture of foreign millionaires and domestic journeymen, they have operated a two-tier system, but not, alas, a team. They have a tyro manager, Bryan Robson — a few months ago considered favourite for the job as England coach — visibly wilting in self-confidence and a chairman, Steve Gibson, so besotted with it all that he has broken all precedent and given Robson a vote of confidence without immediately sacking him.

If Dostoyevsky had been employed to write *Roy of the Rovers* — not a very likely scenario, I grant you — he would have written something like the story of Middlesbrough's season: hysterical, pullulating with bewildering events, with false dawns, doubtful triumphs, shocking disloyalty, still more shocking loyalty, deceptively idyllic moments and a time when the dreadfulness of absolutely everything is spelt out with pedantic clarity — and all the time everything is set about with coruscating moral purpose, though it never becomes quite clear what the coruscating moral purpose actually is.

Saturday's vignette saw Middlesbrough as victim of the managerial master-stroke. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, threatened by relegation worries of his own, brought in a 19-year-old — one born and still resident in Middlesbrough, to add to the layers of irony — called Darren Williams to man-mark Middlesbrough's brilliant Brazilian, Juninho.

But Middlesbrough's brilliant Brazilian was not playing, not from the start anyway. He was resting a poorly knee, lurking on the subs' bench, missing, believed knackered. So Williams played as mere footballer and, as the first half ended, scored the game's only goal.

Waddle stroked a free kick from the edge of the penalty box, about five yards from the byline, and Williams materialised in the right place to head it home. Juninho appeared, at last, in the second half and Williams did a fair job of keeping him quiet, at the cost of a yellow card. It was his day.

It was also a good day for Perez, the Sunderland goalkeeper, who pulled off a series of good saves. His last-minute low gather from Stamp's volley, crisply hit and coming through a crowd of players, with more coming in for the rebound, was exceptional. He might have been sent off for bringing down Beck, but the referee, Gerald Ashby, decided to let him off with a yellow card.

Perez was beaten in the first half when Beck ran onto a neat through-ball from Mustoe, but struck a post. It was the archetypal sickening thump — a couple of inches further to the right and Middlesbrough's season might have completely changed course.

Robson has perfected a post-match demeanour clearly using a dead fish as his role-model: glassy-eyed, expressionless, a garnish of clichés. Gave a schoolboy goal away. Referee didn't help. Chances not going in. Nowhere near all over.

Perish the thought. There is plenty more torture still to come. Would winning the FA Cup and relegation be too unsubtle an irony? It has been a long hard season, but the last few weeks will be the longest part, as well as the hardest.

There has been a nobility about this Middlesbrough dream, this Middlesbrough failure, and there has been a crassness, too. It was a noble thing to try to bring the best and most beautiful footballers in the world to Middlesbrough. It was bold and brave and delicious to try to build a new footballing capital of England, a new Jerusalem among the dark satanic docks of Teesside.

But it was crass to think that hurling money at football creates a team, crass to think that a two-tier system would actually work. Chesterfield, Leicester and, on Saturday, Sunderland — all these teams beat or held Middlesbrough because their sum was greater than Middlesbrough's parts. That is exactly as it should be in football, from lowliest team to greatest. That was true of teams that I played in, true of teams that Pelé played in.

Middlesbrough, from the moment Juninho stepped on to the turf, established a system in which the parts were greater than the sum. It has been bold, it has been brave, it has been rather wonderful, but the day of reckoning is upon them. It is still not quite clear what the crime is, but the nature of the punishment is becoming uncompromisingly clear.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): B Roberts — N Cox, N Pearson, S Vickers, D Whyte — P Stamp, Emerson, R Mustoe, A Moore (sub: C Hignett, 29min; sub: Juninho, 54) — F Ravanelli, M Beck.

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L Perez — G Hall, L Howey, R Ord, M Gray — A Johnston (sub: A Rae, 73), D Williams, P Bracewell, K Ball, C Waddle (sub: C Russell, 87) — P Stewart.

Referee: G Ashby

BOTTOM SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	35	8	13	14	34	50	37
Sunderland	35	9	10	16	32	51	37
Southampton	35	8	11	16	47	55	35
West Ham	34	8	11	15	33	45	35
† Middlesbro	33	9	9	15	44	53	33
Nottm Forest	35	6	14	15	30	53	32

† *Middlesbrough have been deducted three points*

COVENTRY CITY: Today: v Arsenal (h) May 3: v Derby (h) May 11: v Tottenham (a)

SOUTHAMPTON: Tomorrow: v Sunderland (a). May 3: v Blackburn (h). May 11: v Aston Villa (a)

WEST HAM UNITED: Apr 23: v Leicester (a) May 3: v Sheffield Wednesday (h). May 6: v Newcastle (h) May 11: v Manchester United (a)

SUNDERLAND: Tomorrow: v Southampton (h). May 3: v Everton (h) May 11: v Wimbledon (a)

MIDDLESBROUGH: Apr 24: v Tottenham (a). May 3: v Aston Villa (h) May 6: v Manchester United (a) May 8: v Blackburn (a) May 11: v Leeds (a)

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Apr 23: v Derby (a). May 3: v Wimbledon (h) May 11: v Newcastle (a).

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT

Mustoe climbs above Williams, scorer of the goal in Sunderland's 1-0 victory

Ndlovu's release induces panic in suspect defence

Strachan: good move

Southampton 2
Coventry City 2

By David Miller

THE conventional wisdom, after Southampton's collapse like a house of cards and surrender of a two-goal lead, was that Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, had turned the match by bringing himself on as substitute on the hour, with the additional, immediate assistance of a hospital back-pass by Francis Benali, the Southampton left back.

Just as significant, however, was the liberation given to Peter Ndlovu, Coventry's Zimbabwe international. When Strachan and Kevin Richardson replaced Huckerby and Burrows, Whelan switched from midfield to left back and Ndlovu into a central attacking role from the left of midfield. Whereas Ndlovu had been subdued by Van Gobbel, now he proceeded to reduce Southampton's suspect defence, whose home record is worse than any but Nottingham Forest's, to panic.

It is widely said that the club that most of the rest of the FA Carling Premiership would prefer to survive the relegation battle is Southampton. This is a double-edged benevolence. The club is respected, on the one hand, for representing the traditional, honourable elements of the game, as personified by long-term loyalty from such as the vice-president, Ted Bates, 60 years with the club, Mike Channon and Matthew Le Tissier (who may be available against Sunderland tomorrow). However, Southampton are also popular because they are regularly worth three points. In the last quarter of an hour on Saturday, they all but gave them to Coventry, who, after many years at this trick, should be registered not as a limited football club but as escapologists.

In the first half, Coventry had looked as lost as a bunch of Mongolian tourists at Waterloo in the rush hour, unable to read the departure information board or understand the public address. The play was all red and white stripes. The first serious tackle Southampton had to make was Lundekvam's on Huckerby after 35 minutes. Coventry's first coherent move worth the name came shortly afterwards. This was real relegation stuff. Three Coventry players had been booked by a pedantic referee, Burrows even getting his name taken for falling over his own feet and a Southampton player then inadvertently tripping over him. It was that kind of match.

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By half-time, Southampton should have been four or five in front instead of the one goal forced home by Evans on the half-hour. Magilton clipped across a crowded goalmouth, the ball seemed to have run dead. Slater hacked it back and Evans was there to meet it amid a flurry of bodies — his fourth goal in four games in which Southampton had previously taken seven of the nine points available.

When Ostenstad, early in the second half, scrambled home a second goal, untidier even than the first, with the Coventry defenders scrapping around like dustbin scavengers, it seemed Southampton were heading for ten points from 12 and the relative safety of 37 points, which would have lifted them above Coventry and Sunderland.

On a sunny afternoon, the sky, however, was about to fall in on them. Strachan arrived with the air of a desperate duty manager attempting to instil order among the chaotic staff of a small-time supermarket lacking most of the ingredients the customers want. Yet, somehow, it worked.

The transformation was sparked by the unfortunate Benali's feeble back-header to Taylor in goal. The odds on Ndlovu getting there first made every parrot in Southampton prematurely unwell. He did so and drove the ball home via the far post.

Worse was to come. With an open goal, Dublin headed straight at Taylor. Then Strachan's floated cross was headed on by Dublin for Whelan to steal an equaliser on the far post. Dublin might even have won the match, but, from six yards, his lunge at Whelan's cross just failed to connect.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M Taylor — U van Gobbel, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, F Benali — M Oakley, E Berkovic (sub: A Neilson, 76min), J Magilton, R Slater — M Evans, E Ostenstad

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — P Williams, B Borrows, D Burrows (sub: K Richardson, 60) — P Telfer, R Shaw, G McAllister, N Whelan, P Ndlovu — D Huckerby (sub: G Strachan, 60), D Dublin

Referee: P Jones

West Ham pay the penalty

West Ham United..........2
Everton..........2

By Brian Glanville

THIS was a game, if you like, of two schizophrenic halves: West Ham United all over Everton in the first: missing a penalty and falling to bits in the second.

If that missed penalty was, without doubt, the watershed of the game, it still does not excuse the way West Ham, desperate for points, subsided. Nor can it take away Everton's achievement in rising from the ashes.

The credit for this, in ample measure, must to go Nick Barmby. Since joining Everton from Middlesbrough, he has had a thin time of it, but there is no doubt of his talent — he is potentially one of the best young attackers in the country, intelligent, adroit and inventive. Both Everton goals came from his efforts: a long cross from the right for the first, a long free kick for the second that the towering Czech goalkeeper, Miklosko, somehow missed.

With Barmby on at half-time, there was suddenly a mind at work in what had been a boring and brainless Everton side. Two-up at half-time, both goals scored by an incisive Kitson, West Ham had the chance to make it three five minutes after the interval. Dunne brought down the tricky little Portuguese, Porfirio, as he cut in from the left. Kitson insisted twice that he did not want to take the penalty, but sentiment prevailed. His team-mates were equally insistent, so take it he did, and missed. Southall dived to his left and pushed the ball away.

To say that Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was incensed would be to put it mildly. "We threw two vital points away today," he lamented. "No doubt about that. You don't get people to take penalties who don't take penalties. That was the trouble. Three-nil and it's finished. I can't believe what happened. It can't happen in Premiership football and it shouldn't happen. John Hartson was the penalty taker."

From that moment, there was no holding Everton. The half-time reshuffle by their doughty player-manager, Dave Watson, not only brought on Barmby, but pushed Unsworth up to attack down the left. West Ham, surprisingly, did little to stop him and, by sharp contrast with the first half, when the towering Ferguson had nothing to work with, he now had crosses aplenty.

Ironically, the one that counted was a poor one. After 77 minutes, Unsworth overhit his centre to the far flank. Watson retrieved the ball, Barmby crossed again, Ferguson got his head to it and Branch nodded in from close range, compensating for the fact that he probably should have gained a penalty when he was fouled by Hall.

West Ham, admirably crisp and fluent in the first half, had gone ahead inside ten minutes. A mighty throw-in by Lomas from the left was flapped at by Southall, the ball came out to Kitson and he drove it in. After 32 minutes, Kitson scored his second. Porfirio found Hughes on the left and Kitson walloped in the cross. What price Everton? Yet the tide turned and, in injury time, after a pointless foul by Rieper, Barmby's free kick, Miklosko's miss and Ferguson's finish gave Everton their point.

Kitson: decisive miss

There was still time for Watson to divert Hughes's corner against a post, but the ball ended in Southall's hands.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko — R Hall, R Ferdinand, S Bilic — S Potts, S Lomas, J Moncur (sub: I Bishop, 58min), H Porfirio (sub: M Rieper, 83), M Hughes — P Kitson, J Hartson.

EVERTON (3-5-2): N Southall — D Watson, R Dunne, D Unsworth — E Barrett, C Thomsen, G Stuart, M Ball (sub: N Barmby, 46), G Speed — D Ferguson, M Branch

Referee: P Alcock

Bassett's petrified Forest seem resigned to their fate

Nottingham Forest..........1
Leeds United..........1

By Mark Hodkinson

RELEGATION is thrust upon some clubs, while others, Nottingham Forest, for example, seem born to it. They duly went through the motions against Leeds United on Saturday, but the task was undertaken with an air of inevitable, impending doom. There is fear in their boots, pain in their hearts and asking them to play football that even aspires to mediocrity is like asking someone on death row to start the communal singing.

Forest had the best possible start, though, paradoxically, it was also the worst possible start. Gemmill passed to Van Hooijdonk deep in the Leeds penalty area and the Dutchman steadied his feet and his out-sized shoulders before drilling it past Martyn.

When a team has won so infrequently as Forest, it is understandably nervous of holding a lead, however slender. The ball was played repeatedly across the half-way line and it was apparent that, with more than an hour remaining, they were playing out time. Indeed, they were sometimes so nervous that they had up to eight players chaperoning the Leeds front line of Deane and Lilley, which was flattery in the extreme: Deane has managed just three league goals this season and Lilley is a recent acquisition from the not-so-mighty Greenock Morton.

At half-time, the Leeds supporters sang disparaging songs about their own team and dozens removed their shirts to wave them frantically above their heads. When your team has scored just 26 goals in 33 league games and is losing to teams as poor as Forest, it pays to make your own entertainment.

Many defenders does not a great defence make, as Forest discovered when Bart-Williams sliced a ball against his own post. Deane gleefully poked it into the waiting net as it rebounded along the goalline. Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, afterwards dubbed the goal "spawny" and the epithet was accurate.

Bassett was in a tetchy mood at the after-match press conference, peppering his responses with swear words. He did not like the suggestion that the team having two managers — himself and the injured Stuart Pearce — was causing confusion. "There is no confusion; the only confusion is you trying to stir it up and drive in a wedge," he snapped.

He believes Forest have to win their final three games to avoid relegation. "It is not an enjoyable thing getting relegated, for the fans, players, directors and whoever else you are," he said.

George Graham, the Leeds manager, made his customary grumble that players were no longer of sufficient passion. "It is something a few of us managers have brought up," he revealed.

A few of us, writers and fans that is, might prefer it if Graham *et al* were preoccupied with fielding teams of enterprise, guile and skill: we are full up on endeavour disguised as passion right now.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): A Fettis — C Cooper (sub: V Warner, 24min), D Phillips, S Chettle — D Lyttle, S Gemmill, C Bart-Williams (sub: I Woan, 69), B O'Neil, C Allen — P van Hooijdonk, B Roy (sub: I Moore, 75)

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, D Wetherall, G Halle, A Dorigo — P Laurent, L Radebe, L Bowyer, L Sharpe (sub: C Palmer, 46) — B Deane (sub: R Wallace, 80), D Lilley

Referee: D Elleray

Kinnear in pessimistic mood over Wimbledon prospects

Sheffield Wednesday..........3
Wimbledon..........1

By Richard Hobson

IT HARDLY requires the memory of an elephant to recall when Wimbledon would have taken more than a passing interest in the proceedings at Anfield on Saturday morning. As recently as February, they appeared plausible challengers for the FA Carling Premiership title. Few queried that a place in the Uefa Cup would be their minimum achievement this season.

Joe Kinnear, the manager, ruled out even the latter after this defeat at Hillsborough, yet as he spoke pessimistically, not for the first time, of the growing divide between the bigger clubs and his own, it became difficult to imagine how Wimbledon can ever take that next stride forward. In 1997-98, they will be underdogs again and, one senses, happier than when they sneered down upon Manchester United and Liverpool.

Commendably, seven of those who featured on Saturday emerged through the youth system and Kinnear will use the remaining four games to give further experience to his younger players. Logic dictates that Vinnie Jones will be among those omitted. Absent here with a knee problem, Jones appears to have little future at the club having rejected a new contract and served a writ on the FA Premier League demanding a free transfer under the Bosman ruling. Under the present rules, Wimbledon would be entitled to a fee decided by a tribunal.

"I do not see how anyone can stop this happening," Kinnear said. "Somebody was bound to test the rule eventually. It will be dog eat dog and the best players will end up at three or four clubs who can afford the wages. Manchester United will eat up Wimbledon; we will eat up teams in division one. One day, you might find the entire England side at one club."

Wimbledon have always managed to replace the likes of Fashanu, Wise and Barton. They can absorb the loss of Jones easily and on Saturday, Earle and Blackwell were more significant absentees. Despite the skill of Leonhardsen, they were altogether too quick to follow their instinct and pump high balls forward: Old Wimbledon. No Danger.

Carbone, the Italian, was by far the cleverest player on show. His 45-yard pass that laid on a second goal for Trustfull, a substitute, in the 82nd minute was a masterful combination of vision and geometry. In the first half, Carbone had forced a penalty against Kimble, squandered by Pembridge, and united with Whittingham to create a chance for Donaldson, who put his side ahead after 42 minutes.

The second goal, in the 77th minute, effectively sealed victory for Wednesday to heighten their own ambitions of a Uefa Cup place. Carbone turned McAllister, fed Pembridge on the left and ran on to distract the defence as Trustfull pressed forward and deceived Sullivan with a 25-yard shot. Goodman's effort with Wimbledon 3-0 behind was little consolation.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — S Nicol, D Walker, D Stefanovic, I Nolan — G Whittingham, P Atherton, M Pembridge, R Blinker (sub: O Trustfull, 62min) — O Donaldson, B Carbone

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry (sub: A Reeves, 69), B McAllister, A Kimble — N Ardley, S Castledine, P Fear, O Leonhardsen (sub: J Goodman, 75) — D Holdsworth, M Gayle (sub: J Euell, 75)

Referee: J Winter

No time for Stevenage to lick their wounds

Non-League Football by Keith Pike

THE exertions of a cruelly demanding season may finally be catching up with Stevenage Borough, who could ill-afford the two points that they dropped on Saturday in their bid to retain the Vauxhall Conference title and, with it, earn elevation to the Nationwide League.

Beaten by Woking in their FA Umbro Trophy semi-final replay three days earlier, Stevenage looked predictably drained in a goalless draw against Southport at Haig Avenue, their third match in six days, but it could have been worse, Southport squandering an 87th-minute penalty conceded by Mutchell.

There is no time for Stevenage to lick their wounds. Tonight, they resume their faltering title challenge when Rushden and Diamonds, a revitalised team under Brian Talbot's management, visit Broadhall Way. Anything other than victory would effectively, if not mathematically, end Stevenage's hopes.

Macclesfield Town, the 1995 champions, remain in pole position, if not on top of the table. They were displaced for the first time since February 22 when Kidderminster Harriers twice came from behind to win 3-2 away to Morecambe on Saturday. Harriers, two points clear, might not have long to savour the experience as Macclesfield, who have two games in hand, entertain Woking tomorrow.

Champions leave rivals in their slipstream in race for Premiership

United remain top of pecking order

Liverpool 1
Manchester United 3

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

ONE marathon began on the pitch at Anfield on Saturday morning as another ended. A lone walker left the centre circle at half-time and started out on a 230-mile trek to the birthplace of Bill Shankly. A little over 45 minutes later, shell-shocked and brought to their knees, Liverpool reached the end of their long day's journey into night.

For three months now, it has been a desperate struggle to stay in touch with Manchester United as the champions hit their stride, the panting, breathless effort of a dogged pursuer who only gets fleeting glimpses of his quarry. On Saturday, though, it was like watching a Lancaster bomber tailing a spaceship that suddenly disappears at the speed of light.

The four matches that United have to play in the last eight days of the season at the beginning of next month may not be such a hardship after all. After their victory at Anfield and Arsenal's draw with Blackburn Rovers, United need only five points from those last four games to clinch their fourth title in five years. The week that was to have been an unwanted test of endurance may now be a prolonged victory parade.

"It is a massive result for us," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said. "It would be easy for us to fall into traps. We have got games against teams fighting off relegation and games against teams fighting for a place in Europe, so we won't be taking anything for granted, but we know we have to earn the right to be champions. Liverpool have learnt how hard it is to win leagues over the years and this was the right time to come here and prove that if we do win it, we will be good champions. But we have still got work to do."

The irony of it, perhaps the pity of it, is that United did not need to push themselves to their brilliant best to disappear out of sight of the rest of the FA Carling Premiership. They stood firm and they played professionally, efficiently and with guile and poise as Liverpool self-destructed in front of them.

Keane, who played just in front of the back four and steadied the defence on the rare occasions it looked shaky, was a titan, as usual, while Butt, just as he had been against Borussia Dortmund ten days ago, was probably the best player on the pitch.

Even some of the Liverpool players admitted afterwards that the margin of United's victory could have been much more than 3-1, that Gary Pallister's two thumping headers and Andy Cole's nod down into an open net from Gary Neville's hopeful cross were the minimum return United were entitled to expect from the home team's parlous defensive display.

In the Liverpool attack, McManaman and Fowler, playing his last game before suspension rules him out for the rest of the Premiership season, ran tirelessly without quite gelling, and Collymore and Berger, brought on as second-half substitutes, made positive contributions but never seemed likely to be able to rescue the match.

By then, United were in complete control. After a shaky start, when Pallister gave the ball away and Bjornebye slanted in a fine cross that McManaman mishit wide of Schmeichel's left-hand post, their defence rarely looked troubled.

Their only lapse came when Barnes rose unmarked to head in McAteer's cross in the nineteenth minute and cancel out Pallister's first thumping header that had put United ahead six minutes earlier. Wright had been slow to pick up Pallister for that goal and was at fault again when United regained the lead three minutes before half-time.

Both Wright and James tried to meet Beckham's inswinging corner, but Pallister got to it first and glanced it into the net. Seventeen minutes into the second half, United put the match beyond doubt when James missed Neville's centre and Cole kept his eye on the ball and leapt to nod it into the empty goal.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, courteous as always, tried to put a brave face on the defeat. He said Liverpool had to learn to inject a cultured long-ball element into their short passing game, to vary their tactics a little. "We won't throw the towel in," Evans said. "We won't say it's all over because that would be totally out of order."

The order, though, is all but established now. It is the old order, with United at the top.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — B T Kvarme, M Wright, S Harkness — J McAteer (sub: S Collymore, 50min), J Redknapp, M Thomas, J Barnes (sub: P Berger, 67), S I Bjornebye — R Fowler, S McManaman.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-1-3-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, R Johnsen, P Neville — R Keane — D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes (sub: B McClair, 81) — E Cantona — A Cole
Referee: G Poll.

☐ Borussia Dortmund said yesterday that Matthias Sammer, their sweeper, will not be fit in time to play in the European Cup semi-final second leg at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

TOP THREE

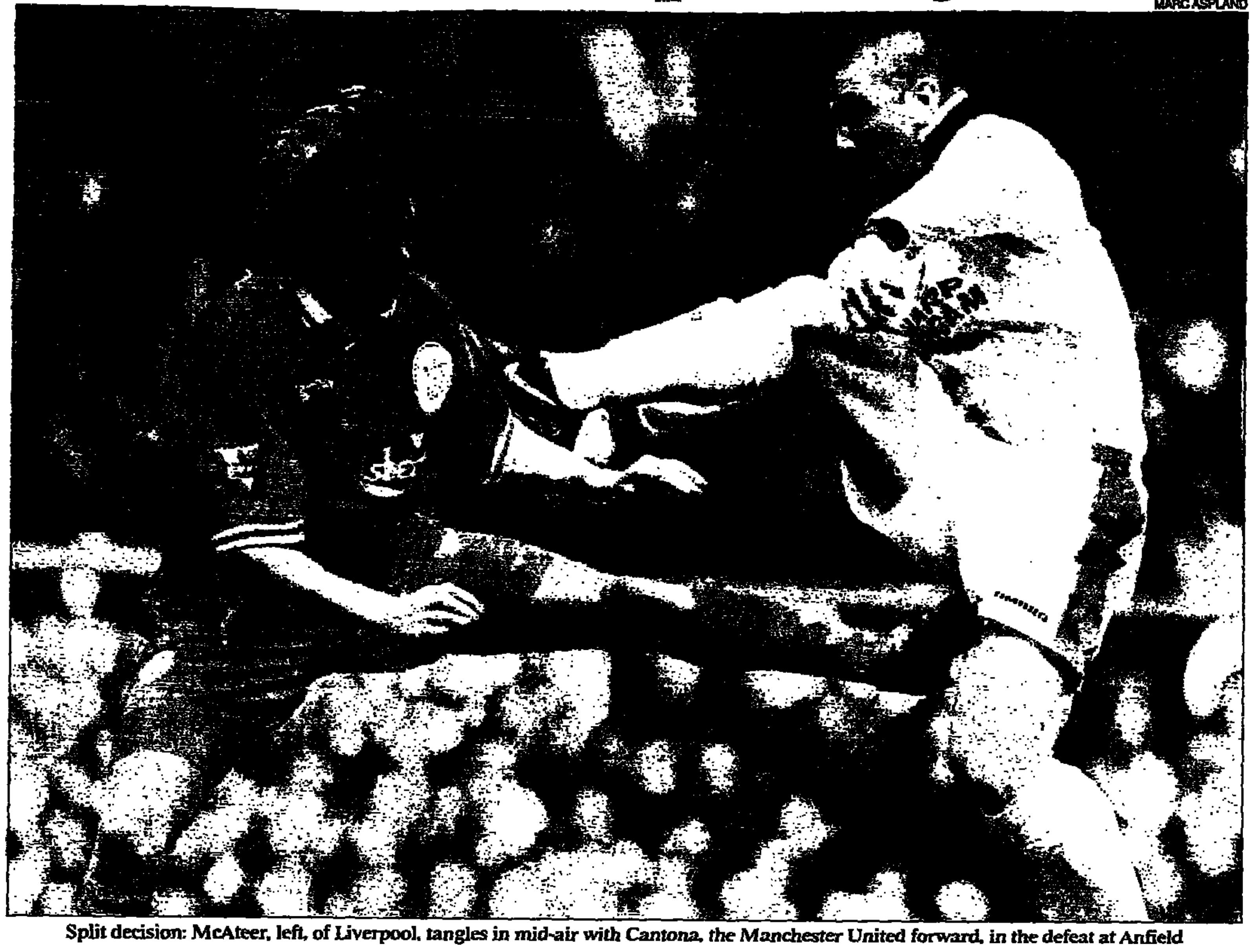
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	34	20	9	5	69	39	69
Arsenal	35	18	10	7	58	29	64
Liverpool	35	18	10	7	58	33	64

MANCHESTER UNITED: May 3: v Leicester (a) May 6: v Middlesbrough (h). May 8: v Newcastle (h) May 11: v West Ham (h)

ARSENAL: Today: v Coventry (a) May 3: v Newcastle (h) May 11: v Derby (a)

LIVERPOOL: May 3: v Tottenham (h) May 6: v Wimbledon (a) May 11: v Sheffield Wednesday (a).

MARC ASPLAND



Split decision: McAteer, left, of Liverpool, tangles in mid-air with Cantona, the Manchester United forward, in the defeat at Anfield

No place to hide when the title deeds are lost

STEVE McMANAMAN

on how Liverpool must learn the hard way

A huge sense of despondency settled over Liverpool on Saturday, when the full implications of the defeat by Manchester United sank in. Last season, when we missed out on the title, we said that we must learn from it. This time around, it is absolutely imperative.

Clearly, we still have a little way to go to become champions. There can be no excuses now. Either we accept and understand our failings and deliver next season, or something more radical will have to happen to the team. You only get a couple of years to bring success or someone else is given the opportunity in your place.

I know our supporters might find it difficult to accept at the moment, but I believe that we can learn even from this terrible disappointment. We are close to the holy grail of the title and there is a great hunger within our squad, no matter what people say about us. If we didn't have hunger, then we would not have been challenging at the top of the table all season.

I think the manager has learnt a great deal from this campaign, as have the players and staff. It is easy to say such a thing in hindsight, but there has to be a learning process. Alex Ferguson had it at Manchester United before he got it right and now our manager has had a few years himself. There will be changes next season and I am certain we will grow from this experience. We have to improve if we are to be successful as there is no doubt the other FA Carling Premiership sides will buy new players and get better.

United are a young side who will only get better. We are a relatively young side, too, and we are on the verge of becoming a very good team, but if we don't go with Manchester United, then it will all have been for nothing and greater changes will have to be made at the club to ensure that Liverpool find the success our supporters demand.

The manager has made changes this season and we have improved, so no doubt he will do so again and, with some luck, that will ensure that we get even closer to the title. This is a vital stage for the club; either this team goes on from here — as Manchester United did when they lost the league to Leeds United — or it will be broken up.

That is why we must take something positive from what has been such a disappointing weekend. There is no use beating about the bush, we cannot win the title now unless United have a disaster — and their experience will ensure that does not happen. We must accumulate the same experience.

By losing at home to United, we have taken all the pressure off them. Had we taken anything from the game, then they would not have been able to afford any more slip-ups in their final four games.

As I am afraid we discovered, when you have an intense spell there are almost certainly going to be mistakes. We were lethargic on Saturday, we looked at times as if we were tired, almost drained, and that should not be surprising because it was at the end of a horrible spell of four tough games in nine days.

United have that to come and, if we were closer to them, we could have capitalised, because the whole point of Alex Ferguson's campaign to get the season extended is that he believed they would drop points as well. Yet we have let them off the hook and, even though it might have been unlucky that we played such an important game after such a demanding week, there can be no complaints, because that would appear churlish.

We have only ourselves to blame. We had a spell during the match at 1-1 when we were in control, but we made several mistakes and paid a heavy penalty. If there is one thing you cannot do, it is to make mistakes against a side such as United. We failed in a game that really mattered and there can be no hiding from that.

That is why I suggest we must learn. We still have a European game to come and, even if the odds are stacked against us in that, then we must approach it in the right way. Paris [Saint-Germain] have a three-goal lead, but I was part of the team that won 3-0 against the French club, Auxerre, a few years ago, so I know it is still possible.

There is also the matter of finishing second in the league. Arsenal's slip on Saturday means we are level with them and we must put them under pressure by winning our remaining games. If we do that, then at least we will be in the Champions' League and that is still a massive prize to aim for.

Asprilla calls the tune to keep Newcastle on song for Europe

Newcastle United........... 3
Derby County................. 1

By Peter Ball

ALEX FERGUSON was characteristically cautious on Saturday. "We've got games against two teams fighting against relegation and another hoping for a Uefa Cup place," he said. For once, the Manchester United manager might have understated his case.

As the implications of the results at Anfield and Highbury dawned at St James' Park, Newcastle United suddenly saw a mid-season of upheaval ending happily in their first entry into the European Cup. The exhilarating win over Derby County means they are four points behind Arsenal and Liverpool, with a game in hand on their rivals jostling for a place in the Champions' League.

Kenny Dalglish, of course, would have no truck with such visions. "We'll try to do as well as we can, get as many points as quickly as we can, add them up at the end of the season and then see what our reward is," the Newcastle manager said.

It remains an outside shot. With three of their four remaining games away from home, including visits to Highbury and Old Trafford, they have the hardest run-in of the contenders, but they would certainly be more fitting companions for Manchester United in Europe than Liverpool's effete pretenders, or Arsenal's undisciplined mob.

As an attacking force, Newcastle remain the most potent team, apart from Manchester United, in the FA Carling Premiership. Much has been made of the changes the more puritanical Dalglish would bring to Kevin Keegan's cavaliers. It was not evident on Saturday.

Apart from the inspired move of Elliott into midfield, Newcastle were still recognisably Keegan's team, with Asprilla, Shearer and Ferdinand given their heads.

Predictably, the combination was the same, heady attacking and hysterical defending, with Derby gifted a goal, scored by Sturridge, after 32 seconds. Within five minutes, they should have had a second as Ward broke through and fed Sturridge, but this time Hislop saved the forward's shot.

Instead, the gifts came at the other end as Hoult helped Elliott's corner into his goal for the equaliser and was left open-mouthed by a swerving shot from Shearer, the ball virtually going through his arms.

In between, Newcastle were irresistible. Ferdinand put them ahead with a trademark flying header from Elliott's cross. Shearer was his imposing, muscular self, but it was Asprilla who did most to undermine Derby's security. Two weeks ago, during Derby's win at Old Trafford, Trollope had man-marked Cantona to some effect. Man-marking Asprilla was another matter as the Colombian left him tackling thin air, to the delight of the crowd.

"He's the one the fans really get excited about," Dalglish said, "but he worked back as well — he lost the ball towards the end and chased all the way back to try to retrieve it — so as well as the flair he's also got a desire to be successful."

Ah, so that is the Dalglish revolution — flair plus the Puritan ethic.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): S Hislop — W Barton, D Peacock, S Watson, J Beresford — R Lee, D Batty, R Elliott — F Asprilla (sub: K Gillespie, 85min) — L Ferdinand, A Shearer
DERBY COUNTY (3-1-4-2): R Hoult — J Laursen, P McGrath, C Daily — P Trollope — G Rowett, A Asanovic, R van der Laan (sub: M Solis, 76), C Powell (sub: D Powell, 46) — D Sturridge, A Ward (sub: P Wanchope, 46)
Referee: D Gallagher

Arsenal campaign unravelled by Blackburn code-breaker

Arsenal 1
Blackburn Rovers 1

By Pat Gibson

IN AN age when even cricket has to have a code of conduct to make sure that its players stay within the spirit of the game as well as within the laws, it is asking a lot of a footballer to remember social niceties in the final frenzied minutes of a match that could have taken one club into Europe and the other closer to relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

Arsenal should remember that instead of blaming their failure to beat Blackburn Rovers on Chris Sutton, whose perceived breach of etiquette led to an equaliser in injury time and angry scenes after the final whistle, they would do well to consider their own shortcomings.

It is the convention these days that when the ball is deliberately kicked out of play so that an injured player can receive treatment, possession is returned to the opposition. Sutton, himself a cricketer, either forgot what had preceded the long delay while Hughes was being loaded onto a stretcher with cramp, or chose to ignore it. When play restarted, he hustled Winterburn into conceding a corner and, to make matters worse, the kick went straight to Flitcroft, who met it with a half-volley that thundered into the net.

Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker manager, was suitably apologetic. "Chris Sutton was wrong to do what he did because it is not in the spirit of the game," he said. "He is a very silly lad at times, a very simple lad and I just think he had forgotten. But it was a great goal and we deserved a point."

Unlike his players, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, was not complaining too much either. "Fair play is an English word, it is not a French word," he said, "and it has been copied all over the world. Unfortunately, it does not function any more here, but what can I do? I am not responsible for the fair play of Blackburn. I am responsible for the mistakes of my team and it does not excuse the way we conceded the goal."

The way Wenger saw it, Arsenal lost the ball, did not mark properly and were unlucky that Gallacher's miskicked corner went straight to Flitcroft. "You can give the goal to who you want," he said. "A little bit to God, a little bit to Blackburn and a little bit to our guilt."

Guilt was perhaps too strong a word, but Arsenal did have only themselves to blame for not maintaining some hope of challenging Manchester United for the title. They started well enough and deservedly took the lead when Platt slotted in his third goal in successive games, but, as Wenger conceded, they then dropped the level of their game.

Not that he seemed too disturbed. "I think today you have a new champion in England and we have to congratulate them," he said. "The race is now for the second place and, fortunately, second place may be as important as first, really."

He was referring to the fact that the runners-up will go into the qualifying round of the European Cup and Arsenal now have the edge over Liverpool and Newcastle United.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams, S Bould — L Dixon, D Platt, P Vieira, S Hughes (sub: R Parlour, 89min), N Winterburn — I Wright, D Bergkamp
BLACKBURN ROVERS (3-5-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Hendry, I Pearce — J Kenna (sub: P Pedersen, 81), T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — K Gallacher, C Sutton
Referee: M Riley

Sound of the Sixties proves music to Zola's ears

Chelsea 2
Leicester City 1

By Russell Kempson

AFTER 72 minutes at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, with Chelsea and Leicester City pleasantly poised at 1-1, Gianfranco Zola began warming up on the touchline. A frenzy of flags proclaiming "Zola Power" erupted in unison, as if by some preordained signal; the trademark strains of "Zola", to the accompaniment of The Kinks' hit single of the Sixties, enveloped the ground. The Bridge paid homage to the tiny yet perfectly-formed Sardinian.

That Zola contributed little to the remaining 18 minutes was irrelevant to the adoring masses. He had already done enough, since he arrived from Parma in November for £4.5 million, to have earned everlasting reverence alongside Harris, Hudson and Houseman. He could have scored an own goal, conceded a penalty and then been sent off, yet the Fulham Road followers would still have kissed the turf on which he trod.

An hour after his raucous worshippers had left, as he sat in the empty, half-finished stadium, Zola illustrated the more private, sensitive side to his public persona. Surrounded by the 26 excited seven-year-olds of Form 2T, from the Warren Park Primary School, in Leigh Park, Havant, he was again serenaded to the tune of The Kinks' finest — the high-pitched Hampshire version.

Les Terry, teacher, composer and guitarist, strummed away as the children sang long and loud. Zola smiled and hummed along, clearly at ease in the company, as Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, leant over and roared his approval from the balcony above. Zola might have cost an arm and a leg to bring to the Bridge, for a reputed £25,000 a week, but he has donated his mind, body and soul to the cause.

"We rewrote the words, sent off a tape and were amazed when the club wrote back and said Gianfranco liked it," Terry, a Queens Park Rangers fan, said. "The kids weren't expecting anything, he must be swamped by things like this, but we're now here. We've had £500 worth of free tickets, we've all got pictures and autographs and are hoping to get a signed jersey. What a day, it's been brilliant."

Zola: homage

Zola, before eventually departing to enthuse about his blossoming partnership with Mark Hughes to the patient press corps, expressed his delight. "It is a big surprise for me, but I am very satisfied," he told Terry and Colin Harris, the Warren Park head teacher. "It is my pleasure and I hope I will see you again."

It was a strange day in west London, when FA Cup-finalists met Coca-Cola Cup-winners. Euphoria bubbled beneath the surface, with Chelsea having recently reached Wembley and Leicester having secured a gateway to Europe, and the first half reflected it. Apart from Minto's crisp, thirteenth-minute goal, there was little to cheer. "We played very sober," Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, observed.

Bates's bizarre pre-match attempt at humour — he presented an embarrassed Oliver Skeete, the dreadlocked occasional show-jumper, as Gullit's successor — and the sight of Chelsea players handing bouquets to their Leicester counterparts, in Coca-Cola appreciation, created a surreal stage on which the actors were expected to perform. At least after the interval they attempted to regain the meaning of life in the FA Carling Premiership.

Leicester equalised, when Sinclair inadvertently turned Elliott's shot into his own net, but Chelsea ended a sequence of four successive league defeats when Mark Hughes nodded in at the far post from the enterprising Granville's deep run and cross.

Zola again transcended everything, his most miniscule involvement greeted by a near-hysterical response. That his goal for Italy at Wembley in February threatens England's participation in the World Cup finals is but a blip in history. For Chelsea supporters, and the 26 boys and girls of Warren Park Primary, there is no equal.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): C Forrest — D Petrescu, F Sinclair, F Leboeuf — C Burley, R Di Matteo, J Morris (sub: G Zola, 72min), S Minto (sub: P Hughes, 46), D Granville — G Vialli, M Hughes (sub: M Nicholls, 78)
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Poole — S Prior, M Elliott, P Kaamark — S Grayson, M Izzet (sub: J Lawrence, 86), G Parker, N Lennon, S Guppy — S Claridge (sub: I Marshall, 80), E Heskey
Referee: A Wilkie

Tottenham turn up to spoil the party

Aston Villa 1
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By Keith Pike

A CLASSIC this most certainly was not, but there were worse places to be than Villa Park on Saturday when Tottenham Hotspur, with commendable defiance, reinforced those most basic principles of the English game. Rule No 1: turn up (Middlesbrough please note). Rule No 2: even when there is nothing to play for and some of your best players are crocked, make life as uncomfortable as possible for the team with plenty at stake.

On the day when 100 years of football at Villa Park were being celebrated, Tottenham might have been forgiven had they made their excuses and left. An entire team was unavailable to Gerry Francis, the manager, but turn up and party they did, to the extent that Aston Villa's prospects of European involvement next season were significantly reduced.

There was nothing remotely pretty or elegant about Tottenham's performance. They scored, ludicrously against the run of play, from one of only two efforts on target, then held on until nine minutes from time, when Dwight Yorke poached an inevitable equaliser. Yet this was a display of considerable character. Tottenham, a team with attitude ... and how often have their supporters been able to say that?

Nonetheless, had Teddy Sheringham been playing in claret and blue — an omission that Brian Little is thought keen to rectify this summer — Villa would probably have won by a country mile, such was their overwhelming superiority of possession. Splitting his time between shepherding McVeigh, the tiny teenaged striker, through his FA Carling Premiership debut, and supplementing the Tottenham midfield, Sheringham would drop off his marker to make space and slow the game to bring his colleagues into play. He was a class apart.

Villa would charge forward relentlessly, but lacked the subtlety to ruffle Vega, Calderwood and Campbell, who were rock-steady in front of Walker. Tottenham's resilience was never better exemplified than when, after Vega had headed them into a 54th-minute lead from Sheringham's cross, Howells and then Campbell threw themselves at the feet of Draper and Yorke to block goal-bound shots at close range.

"We're crap and we're beating you," the disbelieving Tottenham followers sang, only for Yorke to change their tune with the equaliser after Walker had parried Staunton's shot. Still, Francis could delight in his team's effort before dealing with renewed speculation that Jürgen Klinsmann is about to return to White Hart Lane. That door, like the one leading Villa to the Uefa Cup, was left conveniently ajar.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate (sub: D Hughes, 46min) — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper (sub: S Curcic, 67), A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-1-4-1-1): I Walker — R Vega, C Calderwood, S Campbell — D Howells (sub: S Nethercott, 90) — D Austin, J Dozzell, A Sinton, J Edinburgh — E Sheringham — P McVeigh (sub: N Fenn, 82)
Referee: M Bodenham

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (1) 1 **BLACKBURN** (0) 1
Platt 18 — Flitcroft 89
38,086

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, S Bould, A Adams, D Platt, I Wright, D Bergkamp, M Keown, S Hughes (sub: R Parlour, 89min)
Booked: Wright, Bergkamp, Vieira, Dixon
Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna (sub: P Pedersen, 81min), T Sherwood, C Hendry, K Gallacher, C Sutton, J Wilcox, W McKinlay, H Berg, G Flitcroft, I Pearce.
Booked: Sherwood, McKinlay, Pearce, Sutton, Wilcox.
Referee: M Riley

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 1
Yorke 81 — Vega 54
39,339

Aston Villa: M Oakes, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate (sub: D Hughes, 45min), A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper (sub: S Curcic, 66min), S Milosevic, D Yorke
Booked: Nelson.
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, D Howells (sub: S Nethercott, 89min), C Calderwood, R Vega, A Sinton, J Dozzell, S Campbell, E Sheringham, P McVeigh (sub: N Fenn, 82min)
Booked: Edinburgh
Referee: M Bodenham

CHELSEA (1) 2 **LEICESTER** (0) 1
Minto 13 — Sinclair 47 (og)
Hughes 73 — 27,723

Chelsea: C Forrest, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, G Vialli, M Hughes (sub: M Nicholls, 77min), C Burley, R Di Matteo, S Minto (sub: P Hughes, 45min), F Sinclair, J Morris (sub: G Zola, 71min), D Granville
Leicester City: K Poole, S Grayson, M Izzet (sub: J Lawrence, 85min), N Lennon, S Claridge (sub: I Marshall, 79min), G Parker, E Heskey, P Kamark, S Prior, M Elliott, S Guppy
Referee: A Wilkie

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 **MAN UTD** (2) 3
Barnes 19 — Pallister 13, 42
40,892 — Cole 63

Liverpool: D James, P T Kvarme, J McAteer (sub: S Collymore, 51min), M Wright, S I Bjornebye, S Harkness, J Barnes (sub: P Berger, 67min), M Thomas, J Redknapp, R Fowler, S McManaman.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, G Pallister, E Cantona, N Butt, A Cole, D Beckham, P Neville, R Keane, P Scholes (sub: B McClair, 81min), R Johnsen
Booked: G Neville, Pallister.
Referee: G Poll

MIDDLESBRO (0) 0 **SUNDERLAND** (1) 1
30,106 — Williams 45

Middlesbrough: B Roberts, N Cox, D Whyte, S Vickers, N Pearson, Emerson, R Mustoe, M Beck, F Ravanelli, A Moore (sub: C Hignett, 26min, sub: Juninho, 53min), P Stamp.
Booked: Moore, Ravanelli.
Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall, M Gray, D Williams, R Ord, L Howey, P Bracewell, P Stewart, A Johnston (sub: A Rae, 73min), C Waddle (sub: C Russell, 87min), K Ball.
Booked: Williams, Gray, Perez
Referee: G Ashby.

NEWCASTLE (1) 3 **DERBY** (1) 1
Elliott 12 — Sturridge 1
Ferdinand 52 — 36,553
Shearer 75

Newcastle United: S Hislop, S Watson, R Elliott, D Peacock, J Beresford, W Barton, D Batty, R Lee, F Asprilla (sub: K Gillespie, 85min), L Ferdinand, A Shearer
Booked: Ferdinand.
Derby County: R Hoult, J Laursen, G Rowett, P McGrath, C Powell (sub: D Powell, 45min), R van der Laan (sub: M Solis, 75min), P Trollope, A Asanovic, C Dailly, D Sturridge, A Ward (sub: P Wanchope, 45min)
Booked: Asanovic.
Referee: D Gallagher

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 **LEEDS** (0) 1
Van Hooydonk 6 — Deane 66
25,565

Nottingham Forest: A Fettis, D Lyttle, C Cooper (sub: V Warner, 24min), S Chettle, C Bart-Williams (sub: I Woan, 69min), D Phillips, S Gemmill, P van Hooijdonk, C Allen, B Roy (sub: I Moore, 75min), B O'Neil
Booked: Van Hooijdonk.
Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, A Dorigo, L Radebe, D Wetherall, L Sharpe (sub: C Palmer, 45min), B Deane (sub: R Wallace, 80min), L Bowyer, D Lilley, G Halle, P Laurent.
Booked: Bowyer, Sharpe, Wallace.
Referee: D Elleray.

SHEFF WED (1) 3 **WIMBLEDON** (0) 1
Donaldson 42 — Goodman 85
Trustfull 78, 83 — 26,957

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, M Pembridge, D Walker, G Whittingham, B Carbone, R Blinker (sub: O Trustfull, 63min), S Nicol, D Stefanovic, O Donaldson.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, O Leonhardsen (sub: J Euell, 76min), D Holdsworth, M Gayle (sub: J Goodman, 76min), C Perry (sub: A Reeves, 70min), B McAllister, N Ardley, S Castledine, P Fear
Booked: McAllister
Referee: J Winter.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 **COVENTRY** (0) 2
Evans 27 — Ndlovu 62
Oslenstad 47 — Whelan 74
15,251

Southampton: M Taylor, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, U van Gobbel, F Benali, R Slater, J Magilton, E Berkovic (sub: A Neilson, 75min), M Evans, M Oakley, E Ostenstad.
Booked: Magilton, Ostenstad
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, P Telfer, B Borrows, P Williams, R Shaw, D Huckerby (sub: K Richardson, 59min), G McAllister, N Whelan, D Dublin, P Ndlovu, D Burrows (sub: G Strachan, 59min).
Booked: Huckerby, Shaw, Burrows.
Referee: P Jones.

WEST HAM (2) 2 **EVERTON** (0) 2
Kitson 10, 32 — Branch 78
24,525 — Ferguson 90

West Ham United: L Miklosko, S Potts, R Hall, S Bilic, R Ferdinand, S Lomas, M Hughes, H Porfirio (sub: M Rieper, 83min), J Moncur (sub: I Bishop, 87min), P Kitson, J Hartson.
Booked: Bilic
Everton: N Southall, E Barrett, D Unsworth, D Watson, G Stuart, D Ferguson, G Speed, C Thomsen, M Branch, M Ball (sub: N Barmby, 46min), R Dunne
Booked: Thomsen, Speed, Stuart.
Referee: P Alcock.

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated — ** denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry v Arsenal (8.0).
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Welling (7.45): Stevenage v Rushden & Diamonds (7.45)

TOMORROW

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: AS Monaco (1) v Internazionale (3): Schalke 04 (0) v Tenerife (1) (7.45)
FA CUP: Semi-final replay: * Chesterfield v Middlesbrough (at Hillsborough, 7.45)
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45), Leeds v Aston Villa (7.45). Sunderland v Southampton (7.45). * Wimbledon v Chelsea (7.45)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich v Manchester City (7.45): * Portsmouth v Barnsley (7.45). Second division: Blackpool v Brentford: Luton v Bury (7.45): Stockport v York; Wrexham v Crewe.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield v Woking (7.45): Morecambe v Stalybridge (7.45).
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final replay: Kilmarnock v Dundee United (at Easter Road Stadium, 7.45).

WEDNESDAY

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: Juventus (2) v Ajax (1) (8.30): Manchester United (0) v Borussia Dortmund (1)
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Derby v Nottingham Forest (7.45): Leicester v West Ham (7.45). Postponed: Tottenham v Middlesbrough
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crystal Palace v Reading (7.45), Wolverhampton v Grimsby (7.45). Second division: Postponed: Watford v Chesterfield.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead v Stevenage (7.45).
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final replay: Celtic v Falkirk (at Ibrox Stadium, 7.45).

THURSDAY

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: Fiorentina (1) v Barcelona (1) (7.45): Liverpool (0) v Paris Saint-Germain (3)
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham v Middlesbrough (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Watford v Chesterfield (7.45)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough v Woking (7.45)

FRIDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE. First division: Bolton v Charlton (7.45): Norwich v Manchester City (7.45). * Portsmouth v Ipswich (7.45). Postponed: Birmingham v Oxford United

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Bradford, Birmingham v Oxford United, Queens Park Rangers v Tranmere; Reading v Oldham, Sheffield United v Stoke, Southend v Huddersfield, Swindon v Crystal Palace, West Bromwich v Grimsby. *Postponed:* Sheffield United v Stoke. Second division: Blackpool v Bristol Rovers, Bournemouth v Wrexham, Bristol City v Plymouth, Crewe v Chesterfield; Millwall v Gillingham; Notts County v Burnley; Peterborough v Luton; Rotherham v York; Shrewsbury v Preston; Stockport v Wycombe, Walsall v Brentford, Watford v Bury. Third division: Brighton v Doncaster, Cardiff v Carlisle, Colchester v Northampton, Exeter v Chester, Fulham v Hull, Hartlepool v Barnet; Leyton Orient v Hereford; Mansfield v Darlington; Rochdale v Cambridge United; Scarborough v Lincoln, Scunthorpe v Swansea. * Torquay v Wigan (12.15)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Kettering: Farnborough v Hednesford, Hayes v Bath; Kidderminster v Southport; Macclesfield v Bromsgrove, Morecambe v Slough; Northwich v Woking; Rushden & Diamonds v Halifax, Stevenage v Stalybridge, Telford v Dover, Welling v Gateshead
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Stirling, Clydebank v Greenock Morton; Dundee v Partick, Falkirk v St Johnstone: St Mirren v East Fife. Second division: Berwick v Clyde, Brechin v Stenhousemuir, Hamilton v Ayr (at Fir Park, Motherwell, 3.0): Queen of South v Livingston, Stranraer v Dumbarton. Third division: Alloa v Montrose, Cowdenbeath v Inverness CT: East Stirling v Queen's Park; Forfar v Albion: Ross County v Arbroath.

SUNDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Port Vale v Wolverhampton (1.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	34	11	3	2	33	14	9	6	3	36	25	69	+30
2 Arsenal	35	10	5	3	36	17	8	5	4	22	12	64	+29
3 Liverpool	35	9	6	3	36	18	9	4	4	22	15	64	+25
4 *Newcastle*	34	12	3	3	49	20	5	6	5	18	20	60	+27
5 A Villa	35	10	5	3	26	13	6	4	7	18	18	57	+13
6 Sheff Wed	34	8	9	1	24	15	6	5	5	23	25	56	+7
7 Chelsea	35	9	7	2	33	22	5	3	9	22	32	52	+1
8 Wimbledon	34	7	6	3	25	19	6	4	8	20	24	49	+2
9 Tottenham	35	7	4	6	17	15	5	3	10	24	32	43	-6
10 Leeds	35	7	5	5	14	12	4	5	9	13	25	43	-10
11 Everton	36	7	4	7	23	20	3	8	7	20	32	42	-9
12 Derby	35	8	5	4	24	19	2	7	9	18	35	42	-12
13 Leicester	34	6	4	6	19	23	4	6	8	20	26	40	-10
14 Blackburn	34	7	3	6	22	18	1	11	6	14	18	38	0
15 Coventry	35	4	7	6	17	20	4	6	8	17	30	37	-16
16 Sunderland	35	8	6	5	17	17	3	4	11	15	34	37	-19
17 Southmptn	35	5	7	6	30	24	3	4	10	17	31	35	-8
18 *West Ham*	34	6	5	6	22	24	2	6	9	11	21	35	-12
19 Middlesbro	33	7	5	6	31	23	2	4	9	13	30	33	-9
20 Nottm F	35	3	8	7	14	26	3	6	8	16	27	32	-23

Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

FIRST DIVISION

BRADFORD (0) 0 **BIRMINGHAM** (1) 2
15,123 — *Devlin 22*, Furlong 86

CHARLTON (1) 2 **PORTSMTH** (1) 1
Bright 10, 66 — Hall 11
12,342

C PALACE (1) 1 **BARNSLEY** (0) 1
Shipperley 30 — Thompson 47 (pen)
20,006

GRIMSBY (1) 2 **READING** (0) 0
Southall 15 — 4,392
Widdrington 71

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
12,748

MAN CITY (0) 0 **QPR** (0) 3
27,520 — Spencer 49, 53, Slade 76

OLDHAM (0) 0 **BOLTON** (0) 0
10,702

OXFORD UTD (2) 2 **SWINDON** (0) 0
Aldridge 19 — 8,167
Massey 30

TRANMERE (1) 1 **SHEFF UTD** (0) 1
Jones 26 — Whitehouse 50
10,027

WOLVRHMPTN (4) 4 **SOUTHEND** (1) 1
Ferguson 7 — Rammell 30
Bull 9 — 25,095
Atkins 35
Goodman 40

Yesterday

STOKE (1) 2 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
Sheron 44, 85 — 16,246

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Ipswich Town 2 Norwich City 0

SECOND DIVISION

BRENTFORD (0) 0 **CREWE** (0) 2
6,183 — Adebola 59, Smith 78

BURNLEY (1) 3 **ROTHERHAM** (1) 3
Cooke 13, 58 — Jean 25, 55, 57
Barnes 60 — 7,875

BURY (0) 1 **PETERBORO** (0) 0
Johnson 61 — 4,631

CHESTRFLD (1) 1 **MILLWALL** (0) 0
Curtis 38 — 5,935

GILLINGHAM (2) 2 **BLACKPOOL** (1) 3
Galloway 2 — Quinn 36
Butler 4 — Mellon 65
5,151 — Clarkson 76

LUTON (1) 2 **SHRWSBURY** (0) 0
Thorpe 45 (pen) — 6,968
Marshall 75

PLYMOUTH (0) 2 **WALSALL** (0) 0
Saunders 75 — 5,535
Barlow 81

PRESTON (0) 1 **STOCKPORT** (0) 0
Bryson 79 — 10,298

WREXHAM (2) 3 **WATFORD** (1) 1
Connolly 36 (pen), 44 — Ramage 45
Skinner 79 — 3,437
Sent off: K Phillips (Watford) 41

WYCOMBE (0) 1 **BOURNEMTH.** (0) 1
Scott 54 — Holland 48
6,043

YORK (0) 0 **BRISTOL CITY** (1) 3
3,344 — Goater 6, 53, Nugent 47

Yesterday

BRISTOL R (0) 1 **NOTTS CO** (0) 0
Bennett 49 — 6,309

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (1) 3 **CARDIFF** (0) 1
Samuels 24 — Dale 85
Gale 59 — 2,497
Middleton 69 (og)

CAMBRIDGE U (1) 1 **BRIGHTON** (1) 1
Wanless 14 — Reinelt 28
6,032

CHESTER (1) 1 **SCARBORO** (0) 0
Milner 14 — 2,311

DARLINGTON (1) 1 **HARTLPOOL** (1) 2
Roberts 45 — Brown 8
4,662 — Allon 90

DONCASTER (0) 0 **FULHAM** (0) 0
2,920

HEREFORD (0) 1 **TORQUAY** (1) 1
Agana 59 — Winter 45
2,852

HULL (2) 3 **L ORIENT** (1) 2
Peacock 24 — *Inglethorpe 40*
Mann 31 — *Griffiths 66*
Brach 49 (pen) — 2,647
Sent off: C Griffiths (L Orient) 71

LINCOLN (2) 2 **SCUNTHRPE** (0) 0
Ainsworth 31 — 4,755
Stant 34

NORTHMPTN (1) 4 **EXETER** (0) 1
Parrish 44 — Rowbotham 90 (pen)
Cooper 47, 53 — 6,400
Gayle 71

SWANSEA (1) 3 **MANSFIELD** (1) 2
Thomas 19 — Ford 18
Heggs 67, 72 — Eustace 47
4,868

Auto Windscreens Shield

Final

CARLISLE (0) 0 **COLCHESTER** (0) 0
45,077
(aet: Carlisle win 4-3 on pens)
(at Wembley)

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 27: McGinlay (Bolton) 24: Blake (Bolton), Sheron (Stoke) 23: Bull (Wolverhampton), Morley (Reading) 21: Jemson (Oxford United) 19: Aldridge (Tranmere), Naylor (Port Vale) 18: Dyer (*Crystal Palace*): Mendonca (Grimsby) Peyton (Huddersfield). 17: Eadie (Norwich) Spencer (QPR) Devlin (Birmingham) 16: Hendrie (Barnsley)

PREMIER DIVISION

HEARTS (0) 1 **DUNFRLNE** (1) 1
Robertson 90 — Young 27
10,174
Sent off: G Britton (Dunfrmline) 88

KILMARNCK (1) 1 **HIBERNIAN** (1) 1
Wright 14 — Montgomerie 45 (og)
10,686

MOTHERWLL (1) 1 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 1
Coyne 36 (pen) — Zetterlund 66
5,382
Sent off: K Christie (Motherwell) 88
S McKimmie (Dundee Utd) 40

Yesterday

CELTIC (1) 3 **ABERDEEN** (0) 0
Cadete 24, 63 — 47,295
Donnelly 51

FIRST DIVISION

CLYDEBANK (0) 1 **FALKIRK** (0) 2
Teale 78 — Fellner 51
537 — Craig 58

DUNDEE (1) 2 **ST MIRREN** (0) 0
Anderson 6 — 2,462
Mckeown 64
Sent off: M Yardley (St Mirren) 29

G MORTON (1) 1 **AIRDRIE** (0) 1
Hawke 10 — Connelly 47
2,073

ST JOHNSTN (2) 3 **EAST FIFE** (0) 2
Scott 12, 76 — Ronald 63, 66
Grant 30 (pen) — 6,451

STIRLING (0) 2 **PARTICK** (0) 0
Bone 55 — 1,383
Bennett 65

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 0 **HAMILTON** (2) 5
520 — McIntosh 8, Ritchie 13, 68, 80, Sherry 88
Sent off: M Neil (Berwick) 88

CLYDE (0) 1 **AYR** (1) 1
McCheyne 68 — Traynor 10
1,308

LIVINGSTON (1) 1 **DUMBARTON** (0) 2
McLeod 18 — Meechan 81
1,579 — Sharpe 83

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0 **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (0) 3
350 — Bryce 69 (pen), Nesovic 74, Mallan 90

STRANRAER (0) 0 **BRECHIN** (0) 1
235 — Feroz 48

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (1) 1 **ARBROATH** (1) 2
Moore 24 — Gallagher 18
454 — Scott 86

COWDNBTH (2) 2 **ALLOA** (0) 1
Stewart 32 — Irvine 84
Nolan 34 — 203

EAST STIRLING (0) 0 **INVERNESS CT** (1) 3
404 — Stewart 45, Ross 70, Thomson 87

MONTROSE (0) 1 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 1
Haro 51 — Kennedy 81
388

ROSS CO (0) 1 **FORFAR** (1) 1
Golabek 55 — Morgan 21
3,034

GOALSCORERS

PREMIER DIVISION: 30: Cadete (Celtic) 21: Dodds (Aberdeen) 20: McCoist (Rangers) 19: Laudrup (Rangers) 17: Wright (Kilmarnock). Gascoigne (Rangers), Robertson (Hearts) 16: Windass (Aberdeen) 15: *Britton (Dunfermline)* 14: Di Canio (Celtic) 13: Olafsson (Dundee United) Albertz (Rangers), Winters (Dundee United), Hamilton (Hearts, 7 for Dundee), Jackson (Hibernian).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

ALTRNCHM (0) 1 **DOVER** (0) 2
Harris 71 — Budden 83
646 — Adams 88
Sent off: S Daniels (Dover) 65

BATH (0) 3 **WELLING** (0) 1
Davis 50 (pen), 71 — Lakin 54
Colbourne 61 — 831

HALIFAX (1) 2 **HAYES** (0) 2
Norbury 40 — Goodliffe 56 (pen)
Lyons 74 — Cox 83
684
Sent off: P Cox (Halifax) 42

HEDNESFORD (0) 2 **SLOUGH** (0) 1
Carty 65 — Brazil 52
Francis 81 — 852

MORECAMBE (1) 2 **KIDDRMNSTR** (1) 3
Bignall 43 — Doherty 45
Healy 75 — Norman 76 (og)
1,175 — Yates 84

SOUTHPORT (0) 0 **STEVENAGE** (0) 0
965

WOKING (0) 1 **GATESHEAD** (0) 1
Foster 85 — Thompson 55
2,300

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
1 Kiddrmnstr	40	13	4	3	46	18	12	3	5	35	21	82
2 Macclsfld	38	13	4	2	32	11	11	4	4	32	15	80
3 Stevenage	37	14	3	2	48	21	8	5	5	28	23	74
4 Northwich	40	11	5	4	30	18	6	7	7	28	31	63
5 Hednesford	39	10	7	3	28	14	6	4	9	22	30	59
6 Morecambe	38	9	3	6	32	22	8	4	8	33	32	58
7 Woking	36	10	5	5	40	27	6	4	6	24	22	57
8 Farnborough	38	8	6	4	33	25	7	6	7	22	23	57
9 Gateshead	39	7	5	7	27	24	7	5	8	27	34	52
10 Southport	38	7	5	7	23	25	7	5	7	33	28	52
11 Telford	40	5	7	8	20	30	9	3	8	23	26	52
12 Kettering	40	9	4	7	29	24	5	5	10	20	30	51
13 Stalybridge	38	9	4	7	33	27	5	3	10	17	26	49
14 Dover	40	7	8	5	30	28	5	5	10	25	37	49
15 Slough	40	7	7	7	42	32	5	5	9	18	31	48
16 Hayes	40	7	7	6	27	20	4	7	9	25	34	47
17 Rushden & D	38	6	7	5	25	22	6	3	11	30	34	46
18 Halifax	39	8	4	7	32	32	3	7	10	16	36	44
19 Bath	39	8	4	7	23	25	2	6	12	25	52	40
20 Welling	38	7	2	10	20	26	3	7	9	23	33	39
21 Bromsgrove	40	7	4	9	28	30	4	1	15	12	33	38
22 Altrnchm	39	5	3	11	20	29	3	9	8	22	36	36

Jorge Cadete scores the first of his two goals for Celtic in their 3-0 victory over Aberdeen yesterday, leaving Celtic nine points behind Rangers. Photograph: Chris Bacon

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Lazio 6 Reggiana 1. AC Milan 0 Piacenza 0. Parma 0 Udinese 2. *Sampdoria 0 Verona 0. Vicenza 4 Perugia 1.* Bologna 0 Juventus 1: Cagliari 1 Internazionale 2: Fiorentina 2 AS Roma 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	29	15	10	3	41	19	55
Parma	28	14	7	7	31	22	49
Internazionale	28	12	12	4	40	27	48
Sampdoria	28	12	8	8	49	39	44
Lazio	28	12	7	9	38	28	43
Bologna	28	12	7	9	43	35	43
Udinese	28	11	8	9	39	34	41
Vicenza	28	10	9	9	39	33	39
Fiorentina	28	9	12	7	36	30	39
AC Milan	28	10	7	11	36	37	37
AS Roma	28	9	9	10	40	39	36
Atalanta	27	9	9	9	36	35	36
Napoli	27	7	13	7	30	34	34
Piacenza	28	5	14	9	21	33	29
Cagliari	28	6	9	13	33	46	27
Perugia	28	7	6	15	34	53	27
Verona	28	5	8	15	33	52	23
Reggiana	28	2	13	13	25	48	19

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 0 Betis 1. Atletico de Madrid 3 Valladolid 1: Sporting de Gijon 1 Extremadura 1. Sevilla 2 Celta 0: Logrones 1 Deportivo de La Coruña 2. Compostela 2 Hercules 2: Zaragoza 3 Rayo Vallecano 2: Real Sociedad 1 Oviedo 0 Racing Santander 1, Español 1.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	34	23	10	1	73	27	79
Real Betis	35	20	11	4	74	36	71
Barcelona	34	21	6	7	86	43	69
Deportivo	35	19	12	4	52	25	69
Atletico Madrid	34	17	8	9	64	50	59
Valladolid	35	15	9	11	50	42	54
Athletic Bilbao	34	12	15	7	63	49	51
Real Sociedad	35	14	8	13	40	38	50
Tenerife	34	13	8	13	55	42	47
Valencia	34	13	7	14	52	48	46

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hansa Rostock 1 *Borussia Mönchengladbach* 0. Fortuna Düsseldorf 1 SV Duisburg 1. Borussia Dortmund 1 Bayern Munich 1. Munich 1860 0 VfL Bochum 1. SC Freiburg 4 Sankt Pauli 0. Werder Bremen 1 Karlsruhe 0: SV Hamburg 1 Schalke 04: Cologne 2 Arminia Bielefeld 5

DUTCH LEAGUE: Ajax 5 NEC Nijmegen 0: Alkmaar 1 Roda Kerkrade 3. PSV Eindhoven 5 Doetinchem 0: Breda 1 Vitesse Arnhem 1: Willem II Tilburg 1 Sparta Rotterdam 1 Feyenoord 4 Fortuna Sittard 4: *Groningen 2 Utrecht 2. Heerenveen 2* RKC Waalwijk 0

FRENCH CUP: Semi-final: Guingamp 2 Montpellier 0 (aet)

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Gent 0 Genk 1. Cercle Bruges 1 RWD Molenbeek 1. Mouscron 1 Ekeren 4. Lommel 2 Charleroi 1. Lokeren 0 Lierse 1. FC Antwerp 3 Standard Liege 0: Eendracht Aalst 3 KV Mechelen 1. Racing Harelbeke 1 Sint Truiden 1

WORLD CUP: Asian zone. Group three: Bahrain 1 Jordan 4 (in Sharjah). Group five: Cambodia 0 Yemen 1 (in Phnom Penh)

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Bolton	44	17	4	1	56	19	10	9	3	38	31	94	(84)
2 Barnsley	43	13	4	5	41	19	8	10	3	30	27	77	(71)
3 Wolvrhmptn	43	10	4	7	30	22	11	5	6	35	26	72	(65)
4 Sheff Utd	44	12	5	5	45	23	7	7	8	29	29	69	(74)
5 Ipswich	43	12	6	3	42	22	6	7	9	23	27	67	(65)
6 Port Vale	44	9	9	4	35	26	8	6	8	21	26	66	(56)
7 C Palace	43	9	6	6	35	19	8	7	7	37	26	64	(72)
8 *Tranmere*	44	10	8	4	40	25	7	5	10	21	27	64	(61)
9 QPR	44	9	5	8	31	25	8	7	7	31	32	63	(62)
10 *Norwich*	44	9	9	4	28	18	8	2	12	35	47	62	(63)
11 Portsmth	43	11	4	6	28	21	7	4	11	26	29	62	(54)
12 Birmingham	44	10	7	5	28	18	6	7	9	21	29	62	(49)
13 Stoke	44	14	3	5	32	21	3	7	12	17	34	61	(49)
14 Charlton	43	11	7	4	36	28	5	3	13	15	33	58	(51)
15 Man City	43	11	4	7	31	23	5	5	11	25	34	57	(56)
16 West Brom	44	6	7	9	35	33	7	8	7	30	37	54	(65)
17 Oxford Utd	44	13	3	6	39	25	2	6	14	20	40	54	(59)
18 Reading	43	12	7	3	35	24	2	5	14	17	37	54	(52)
19 Swindon	44	11	6	5	36	25	4	2	16	16	44	53	(52)
20 Huddersfld	44	10	6	6	28	20	2	8	12	18	40	50	(46)
21 Grimsby	43	6	7	9	27	34	4	5	12	28	44	42	(55)
22 Bradford	43	8	5	8	25	32	2	7	13	18	38	42	(43)
23 Oldham	44	5	8	9	27	30	4	5	13	21	34	40	(48)
24 Southend	44	7	9	6	31	30	1	6	15	10	50	39	(41)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Bury	43	17	5	0	37	7	6	5	10	23	31	79	(60)
2 Brentford	43	8	11	3	26	21	12	3	6	30	19	74	(56)
3 Luton	43	13	5	3	37	13	7	8	7	32	31	73	(69)
4 Stockport	42	13	5	3	27	12	7	7	7	26	26	72	(53)
5 Crewe	43	15	4	3	37	13	7	1	13	16	30	71	(53)
6 Bristol City	43	12	4	5	38	17	7	6	9	26	31	67	(64)
7 Watford	43	10	7	4	24	12	6	11	5	20	20	66	(44)
8 Wrexham	43	10	8	3	34	26	6	9	7	16	20	65	(50)
9 Burnley	44	13	3	6	44	26	5	7	10	22	27	64	(66)
10 Walsall	43	11	8	3	34	21	7	2	12	19	28	64	(53)
11 Blackpool	43	11	7	3	37	19	5	8	9	18	24	63	(55)
12 Millwall	44	12	4	6	27	20	4	9	9	23	31	61	(50)
13 Chestrfld	41	9	9	3	24	17	6	5	9	13	18	59	(37)
14 Gillingham	43	11	3	7	33	25	5	7	10	21	34	58	(54)
15 Bristol R	44	13	4	5	33	20	2	7	13	11	25	56	(44)
16 *Bournemth*	44	7	9	6	22	19	7	5	10	19	25	56	(41)
17 Preston	44	13	5	4	31	19	3	2	17	14	36	55	(45)
18 Plymouth	44	7	10	5	19	18	5	7	10	27	37	53	(46)
19 Wycombe	44	12	4	6	29	14	2	6	14	19	40	52	(48)
20 York	43	8	5	9	26	30	4	7	10	17	35	48	(43)
21 *Shrwsbury*	44	8	6	8	27	30	3	7	12	22	40	46	(49)
22 Peterboro	44	7	7	8	38	33	3	7	12	16	39	44	(54)
23 Notts Co	44	4	8	10	19	24	3	5	14	13	33	34	(32)
24 Rotherham	44	4	7	11	17	27	2	7	13	20	40	32	(37)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Wigan	44	16	3	3	51	21	8	6	8	28	30	81	(79)
2 Fulham	44	12	5	5	39	20	11	7	4	30	18	81	(69)
3 Carlisle	43	14	3	4	36	19	8	9	5	26	21	78	(62)
4 Swansea	44	13	4	5	35	18	8	3	11	25	37	70	(60)
5 *Northmptn*	44	13	4	5	42	17	6	7	9	24	27	68	(66)
6 Chester	44	11	8	3	30	15	6	8	8	20	26	67	(50)
7 Cardiff	44	10	4	8	28	23	9	5	8	25	29	66	(53)
8 Cambs Utd	44	11	5	6	30	26	7	6	9	23	29	65	(53)
9 Colchester	44	11	8	3	36	23	5	8	9	22	26	64	(58)
10 *Lincoln*	44	10	8	4	35	23	7	4	11	33	44	63	(68)
11 Mansfield	44	8	8	6	19	16	7	8	7	26	26	61	(45)
12 Scarboro	44	9	9	4	36	29	6	6	10	27	37	60	(63)
13 Scunthrpe	44	10	3	9	35	33	7	6	9	23	28	60	(58)
14 Barnet	44	9	9	4	30	19	5	7	10	14	24	58	(44)
15 Hull	44	9	8	5	29	24	4	10	8	15	22	57	(44)
16 *Rochdale*	43	9	6	7	31	24	3	10	8	20	31	52	(51)
17 L Orient	44	10	6	6	26	19	3	6	13	21	38	51	(47)
18 Torquay	44	9	4	9	24	21	4	7	11	21	36	50	(45)
19 Darlington	44	10	5	7	35	27	3	5	14	26	48	49	(61)
20 Doncaster	44	8	7	7	27	22	5	3	14	23	42	49	(50)
21 Exeter	44	6	9	7	24	25	6	3	13	23	41	48	(47)
22 Hartlpool	44	7	6	9	29	32	6	2	14	18	32	47	(47)
23 Hereford	44	6	7	9	25	24	5	6	11	23	38	46	(48)
24 †Brighton	44	11	6	5	40	27	1	3	18	11	42	43	(51)

†Brighton have been deducted two points

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Rangers	33	13	2	2	44	14	11	3	2	39	14	77	+55
2 Celtic	33	13	1	2	45	9	8	4	5	27	22	68	+41
3 Dundee Utd	33	9	4	3	20	9	7	5	5	25	20	57	+16
4 *Hearts*	34	7	6	4	24	19	6	4	7	19	22	49	+2
5 Dunfrlne	34	7	4	6	29	29	4	4	9	18	33	41	-15
6 Aberdeen	34	5	8	4	23	19	4	5	8	19	34	40	-11
7 Hibernian	34	6	4	7	17	22	3	6	8	19	29	37	-15
8 Kilmarnck	33	8	3	6	27	25	3	1	12	12	32	37	-18
9 Motherwll	34	5	4	8	22	23	3	6	8	18	30	34	-13
10 Raith	34	3	4	10	17	38	3	2	12	11	32	24	-42

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 St Johnstn	33	11	5	1	36	10	10	3	3	32	12	71	+46
2 Airdrie	33	6	7	3	25	16	9	7	1	30	15	59	+24
3 Dundee	33	9	2	5	21	11	5	9	3	20	18	53	+12
4 St Mirren	33	10	0	6	25	21	5	7	5	20	19	52	+5
5 Falkirk	33	7	7	2	24	16	7	2	8	13	17	51	+4
6 Partick	33	5	8	4	22	20	6	3	7	24	24	44	+2
7 G Morton	33	6	6	5	19	18	5	2	9	21	19	41	+3
8 Stirling	33	7	3	7	23	23	3	7	6	23	31	40	-8
9 Clydebank	33	6	4	6	19	19	1	3	13	10	31	28	-21
10 East Fife	33	1	4	12	15	48	0	3	13	9	43	10	-67

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ayr	33	11	3	3	30	16	10	4	2	26	16	70	+24
2 *Hamilton*	33	11	3	2	48	16	10	3	4	27	11	69	+48
3 Livingston	33	10	3	4	29	18	6	6	4	22	19	57	+14
4 Clyde	33	8	4	5	21	17	4	6	6	18	21	46	+1
5 Queen Of S	33	8	3	5	26	24	4	5	8	25	30	44	-3
6 Stenhsmuir	33	4	5	8	18	22	7	4	5	28	17	42	+7
7 Brechin	33	5	6	5	17	18	5	4	8	18	25	40	-8
8 *Dumbarton*	33	2	7	8	21	32	6	1	9	20	30	32	-21
9 Stranraer	33	4	5	7	14	17	3	4	10	12	30	30	-21
10 Berwick	33	4	4	8	15	32	0	6	11	16	38	22	-39

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Inverness CT	33	13	3	1	37	15	10	4	2	32	15	76	+39
2 Forfar	33	8	5	3	28	18	8	5	4	35	26	58	+19
3 Ross Co	33	8	4	4	29	21	9	3	5	23	18	58	+13
4 Albion	33	8	3	6	26	21	5	5	6	22	22	47	+5
5 Alloa	33	7	4	5	22	21	6	3	8	24	25	46	0
6 Montrose	33	6	4	7	19	27	6	2	8	26	31	42	-13
7 Queen's Pk	33	7	3	7	26	27	2	6	8	19	25	36	-7
8 Cowdnbth	33	5	5	6	20	22	4	2	11	16	28	34	-14
9 Arbroath	33	4	6	7	17	23	2	7	7	13	23	31	-16
10 East Stirling	33	4	4	8	17	29	2	4	11	14	28	26	-26

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Barrow 1 Spennymoor 0. Bishop Auckland 4 Knowsley 1. Blyth Spartans 1 Marine 1; Boston 1 Bamber Bridge 1. Buxton 0 Emley 3; Chorley 4 Colwyn Bay 0; Lancaster 1 Guiseley 2; Leek 2 Witton 1. Runcorn 1 Accrington Stanley 3, Winsford 1 Frickley 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	41	25	9	7	67	34	84
Barrow	43	23	11	9	70	43	80
Emley	42	21	12	9	81	53	75
Hyde Utd	40	19	15	6	86	45	72
Boston Utd	41	20	12	9	69	48	72
Marine	42	19	14	9	52	37	71
Bishop A'land	39	19	13	7	73	38	70
Guiseley	41	20	10	11	57	45	70
Blyth Spartans	40	18	11	11	62	44	65
Accrington S	42	17	11	14	72	69	62
Gainsborough	41	16	12	13	60	44	60
Runcorn	41	14	15	12	60	55	57
Chorley	43	15	9	19	68	66	54
Winsford Utd	43	13	14	16	50	54	53
Knowsley	41	12	12	17	55	75	47
Frickley	40	12	8	20	56	76	44
Colwyn Bay	38	10	11	17	54	67	41
Spennymoor	39	10	10	19	50	55	40
Lancaster	40	11	7	22	45	71	40
Bamber Bridge	41	10	7	24	52	92	37
Alfreton Town	41	7	13	21	43	77	34
Buxton	40	5	11	24	31	79	26
Witton Alb	41	4	13	24	37	85	25

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford P A 0 Flixton 1; Congleton 0 Radcliffe 0 Droylsden 1 Matlock Town 2: Farsley Celtic 2 Ashton United 3. Gretna 1 Eastwood Town 3. Leigh 1 Great Harwood 1, Netherfield 2 Curzon Ashton 0. Warrington 1 Stocksbridge PS 2. Worksop 4 Workington 0. Atherton L.R. 2 Lincoln United 2

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon 2 Stansted 0; Brentwood 0 Ford United 1, Bowers 1 Southend Manor 0 Concord 5 Burnham Ramblers 1 *Postponed: East Ham v Ilford*

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham 0 Hillingdon Boro 3 Barkingside 3 Cockfosters 0; Beaconsfield SYCOB 1 Brimsdown 2. Croydon 4 Haringey 0. Ruislip Manor 4 St Margaretsbury 0; Waltham Abbey 1 Hanwell 1

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Premier division: Cranleigh 1 Feltham 4. Godalming and Guildford 2 Merstham 1; Hartley Wintney 3 Cobham 0. Raynes Park Vale 1 Walton Casuals 4 Reading 1 Corinthian Casuals 1. Sandhurst 1 Ash 1. Viking Sports 0 Farnham 1 Westfield 1 Netherne 2

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Bedford 3 Hoddesdon 2: Buckingham Athletic 2 Arlesey 1. Langford 0 Milton Keynes 0: Potters Bar 0 London Colney 0; Toddington 1 Royston 0; Welwyn Garden 0 Brache Sparta 2

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 3 Paulton 0: Bridgwater 2 Chippenham 2. Brislington 4 Elmore 1, *Chard 0 Bristol Manor Farm 0*: Mangotsfield 4 Torrington 1; Taunton 1 Calne 1: Tiverton 3 Odd Down 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gorleston 3 Newmarket 1: Great Yarmouth 3 Sudbury Wanderers 2: Hadleigh 2 Felixstowe P and T 1, Halstead 0 Fakenham 2. Harwich and Parkeston 1 Wroxham 3. Lowestoft 6 Clacton 1. Stowmarket 2 March 0; Sudbury Town Res 1 Bury Town 1. Watton 0 Warboys 1. Wisbech 2 Diss 1. Woodbridge 0 Tiptree 3

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 1 Andover 1. Aerostructures 0 B A T 1. Bournemouth 2 Eastleigh 3, Brockenhurst 0 Bemerton Heath Harl 1 Cowes Sports 1 Christchurch 1: Downton 2 Portsmouth R N 0: Gosport 2 Ryde Sports 0; *Petersfield 2 East Cowes 1, Romsey 0* Lymington 2: Whitchurch 0 Thatcham 2.

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 1 Enfield 3. *Boreham Wood 0 Heybridge Swifts 0.* Bromley 3 Oxford City 0; Carshalton 0 Dulwich 0, Dag and Red 1 Yeading 2; Grays 0 Chertsey 2, Harrow 2 Sutton United 1. Hitchin 1 Hendon 2. Kingstonian 0 St Albans 1: Staines 0 Bishop's Stortford 0; *Yeovil 4 Purfleet 3*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	38	28	7	3	73	32	91
Enfield	38	25	11	2	82	27	86
St Albans	39	18	9	12	64	52	63
Sutton Utd	37	17	11	9	77	60	62
Yeading	39	16	14	9	55	42	62
Purfleet	40	16	11	13	65	60	59
Aylesbury	38	16	9	13	58	51	57
Dulwich	39	14	13	12	57	51	55
Heybridge	39	14	13	12	58	61	55
Kingstonian	40	15	8	17	75	74	53
Oxford City	38	14	9	15	61	70	51
Carshalton	41	13	11	17	50	56	50
Dag & Red	35	13	10	12	45	36	49
Boreham W	38	12	13	13	47	47	49
Hitchin	39	14	7	18	62	65	49
Bromley	38	13	8	17	61	61	47
Harrow B	40	11	13	16	53	59	46
Hendon	39	10	12	17	44	57	42
Bishop's S'ford	39	9	13	17	38	58	40
Staines	39	9	8	22	44	67	35
Grays	38	8	8	22	39	69	32
Chertsey Town	39	8	6	25	37	90	30

FIRST DIVISION: Basingstoke 3 Abingdon Town 0, Berkhamsted 0 Aldershot Town 3, Canvey Island 0 Chesham 3. Croydon 0 Hampton 2. Maidenhead United 1 Walton and Hersham 1, Marlow 1 Billericay 3; Molesey 0 Bognor Regis 1, Thame 2 Leyton Pennant 1: Tooting and Mitcham 0 Whyteleafe 5. Wokingham 0 Uxbridge 1. Worthing 1 Barton 0 Second division: Banstead 1 Leatherhead 2: Barking 4 Cheshunt 0. Bedford Town 1 Egham 0; Bracknell 5 Tilbury 1; Chalfont St Peter 1 Hungerford 3, Collier Row and Romford 0 *Witham 0, Dorking 1 Leighton 0,* Metropolitan Police 1 Horsham 2; Wembley 3 Ware 1. Windsor and Eton 2 Hemel Hempstead 0: Wivenhoe 1 Edgware 2 Third division: Camberley 3 Northwood 1. East Thurrock 4 Kingsbury 2: Flackwell Heath 0 Braintree 3; Hertford 1 Clapton 2 Lewes 4 Southall 0. Tring 2 Harlow 3. Wealdstone 2 Epsom and Ewell 1. Wingate and Finchley 2 Hornchurch 3

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 4 Oakwood 6 Hailsham 1 Portfield 0. Hassocks 1 Langney Sports 3. Horsham Y M C A 1 Shoreham 2. Pagham 2 Saltdean 1. Peacehaven and Telscombe 2 Wick 1. Ringmer 1 Burgess Hill 3. Southwick 0 Mile Oak 4: Three Bridges 2 Selsey 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham 4 Hythe 0: Cray 1 Chatham 5. Crockenhill 5 Corinthian 1: Folkestone Invicta 0 Whitstable 0. Ramsgate 1 Slade Green 0; Sheppey 3 Thamesmead 2

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United 0 Banbury 0: Brackley 1 *Highworth 2. Burnham 2 Tuffley 0:* Endsleigh 3 Kintbury 0. Shortwood 1 Lambourn Sports 3; Swindon Supermarine 2 Carterton 1, Wantage 0 Almondsbury 0

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 4 Eynesbury 0; Cogenhoe 3 M Blackstone 1. Ford Sports 0 Bourne 2. Holbeach 2 Wootton 1: Potton 1 St Neots 1; Spalding 2 Long Buckby 1; Stamford 3 N Spencer 0. S and L Corby 4 Stotfold 4

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenall 4 Sandwell 0 Boldmere St Michaels 0 Hinckley Athletic 3: Bridgnorth 3 Stapenhill 2 Halesowen Harriers 2 Pershore 3: Oldbury 4 Chasetown 0, Pelsall Villa 3 Knypersley 0 Shifnal 1 Barwell 3: Stratford 1 Rushall Olympic 0

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: O Kingsburians 1 Glyn OB 1 O Meadonians 1 Cardinal Manning OB 6

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Ashford 1 Cheltenham 1: *Burton 0 Hastings 0. Chelmsford 0* Atherstone 1, Dorchester 2 Worcester 0: Gloucester 3 Gravesend and Northfleet 1; Halesowen 1 Sudbury 0, King's Lynn 0 Crawley 1: Newport AFC 0 Gresley 1, Nuneaton 3 Cambridge City 1: Salisbury 2 Baldock 3. Sittingbourne 3 Merthyr 1
Yesterday: Crawley 1 Nuneaton 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	39	23	10	6	69	37	79
Cheltenham	39	20	9	10	72	43	69
Gloucester City	36	19	8	9	71	45	65
Kings Lynn	40	19	8	13	60	56	65
Halesowen	39	18	10	11	71	53	64
Nuneaton	40	18	9	13	58	50	63
Burton Albion	40	17	11	12	67	53	62
Merthyr	40	17	8	15	68	59	59
Sittingbourne	39	17	7	15	72	63	58
Worcester City	40	14	14	12	50	47	56
Sudbury Tn	38	16	7	15	71	61	55
Gravesend & N	40	16	6	18	62	68	54
Salisbury	38	14	12	12	53	59	54
Atherstone	38	13	12	13	41	45	51
Dorchester	37	14	7	16	59	56	49
Crawley Town	40	12	8	20	47	66	44
Hastings	39	9	15	15	45	60	42
Baldock Tn	40	11	8	21	50	86	41
Newport AFC	40	9	12	19	40	58	39
Ashford Town	39	7	18	14	47	75	39
Cambridge C	39	8	13	18	50	64	37
Chelmsford	40	6	14	20	48	67	32

MIDLAND DIVISION: Hinckley Town 1 Sutton Coldfield Town 1. Ilkeston 1 Redditch 0; Moor Green 3 Evesham 1 Paget 4 Corby 0, R C Warwick 0 Bedworth 4, Rothwell 1 Stafford 1; Shepshed Dynamo 3 Raunds 2. Stourbridge 2 Solihull Boro 4: Tamworth 1 Dudley Town 1: V S Rugby 1 Grantham 1 Southern division: Bashley 3 Weston-super-Mare 1: Buckingham Town 0 Newport (IoW) 0; Clevedon 0 Fareham 1: Erith and Belvedere 1 Weymouth 1. Fisher 1 Cirencester 3. Forest Green 2 Dartford 1; *Margate 3 Cinderford 1. Tonbridge Angels 4* Havant 2: Trowbridge 0 Fleet 1. Witney 3 St Leonards 1. Yate 1 Waterlooville 2 Yesterday: St Leonards 4 Buckingham Town 1

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill 2 Alvechurch 1, Coventry Sphinx 1 Meir Ka 3, Massey Ferguson 4 Bilston Community College 1: Richmond Swifts 5 David Lloyd 0: Shirley 2 Highgate 0: Southam 1 Kenilworth 2: Studley BKL 1 Knowle 2: Wellesbourne 1 Boldmere Swifts 1. West Midland Fire Service 2 Handrahan Timbers 2

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Darlaston 2 Westfields 0, Ettingshall HI 0 Brierley Hill 3. Gornal 1 Cradley 2. Hill Top 1 Walsall Wood 5. Stafford 1 Stourport 1; Tividale 0 *Wolverhampton United 0*

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 2 Thackley 1; Arnold 2 Glasshoughton Welfare 1. Ashfield 0 Pickering 2. Belper Town 2 Ossett Albion 1. Brigg 0 North Ferriby 4: Denaby 7 Maltby M W 0. Hallam 1 Liversedge 0; Ossett Town 1 Hatfield Main 0; Pontefract Cols 2 Hucknall 5; Selby 2 Sheffield 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chadderton 1 Blackpool Rovers 1; Holker Old Boys 1 Glossop North End 3: Kidsgrove 1 Burscough 2; Maine Road 1 Bootle 0; Mossley 1 Atherton Collieries 0. Nantwich 0 Rossendale 2; Penrith 1 Trafford 3 St Helens 0 Clitheroe 2. Vauxhall G M 1 Darwen 2

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: *First division:* Bedlington 2 Whitby 3, Consett 2 Crook 0; Durham 0 Tow Law 0, Easington 1 Guisborough 3, R.T.M. Newcastle 4 Whickham 1. Shildon 2 Morpeth 3

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians 0 Foresters 2, Cholmeleians 0 Brentwoods 6. Reptonians 1 Wykehamists 2.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Arsenal 2 Leyton Orient 1. Cambridge 2 Southend 0: Fulham 1 Charlton 4. Gillingham 1 Norwich 0: Portsmouth 4 Millwall 1: Queens Park Rangers 3 West Ham 1. Watford 1 Tottenham 2. Second division: Barnet 2 Bournemouth 2: Crystal Palace 0 Southampton 1. Luton 2 Colchester 0, Oxford 0 Bristol Rovers 1. Swindon 3 Bristol City 0: Wimbledon 3 Brentford 0 Wycombe 0 Brighton 2

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior Cup: Final: Cheshunt Club 1 Wandsworth Borough 2. Senior one: O Finchleians 2 Nottsborough 5. Parkfield 2 Ulysses 2: St Mary's Coll 3 Southgate County 1

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Crouch End Vampires 1 Polytechnic 1; East Barnet OG 3 Civil Service 0: Nat West Bank 1 West Wickham 3

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales 0 Greece 0 (at Stebonheath Park, Llanelli FC)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 4 Everton 1 Postponed: Liverpool v Wembley

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE. Northern division: Garswood St Helens 2 Notts County 2

NATIONAL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon 3 Caersws 2. *Connah's Quay 3* Porthmadog 3: Conwy 6 Briton Ferry 0. Holywell 3 Aberystwyth 3 Llansantffraid 0 Rhyl 1 Newtown 2 Carmarthen Town 1: Ton Pentre 1 Ebbw Vale 1. Welshpool 1 Cwmbran 1. Barry Town 4 Cemaes Bay 3: Inter Cable-Tel 4 Bangor City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Town	36	29	6	1	112	26	93
Inter Cable-Tel	37	25	5	7	75	27	80
Ebbw Vale	38	21	9	8	81	40	72
Caernarfon T	36	20	9	7	70	55	69
Conwy	37	20	8	9	65	35	68
Newtown	36	20	5	11	65	42	65
Llansantffraid	38	17	12	9	66	52	63
Cwmbran	37	18	8	11	68	55	62
Bangor City	37	18	5	14	71	56	59
Porthmadog	37	16	8	13	58	58	56
Connah's Quay	38	15	8	15	60	63	53
Cemaes Bay	37	11	10	16	58	66	43
Flint Town	37	11	8	18	48	64	41
Ton Pentre	37	12	3	22	56	78	39
Aberystwyth	36	10	8	18	56	75	38
Caersws	36	10	7	19	48	73	37
Carmarthen T	38	10	7	21	40	77	37
Welshpool	37	8	9	20	41	74	33
Rhyl	36	8	8	20	45	65	32
Holywell	36	7	8	21	49	72	29
Briton Ferry	37	5	1	31	35	114	16

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 1 Elgin 5, Cove 0 Peterhead 1; Forres Mechanics 0 Keith 3; Fort William 0 Clachnacuddin 6. Fraserburgh 1 Rothes 3, Huntly 1 Buckie Thistle 0. Wick Academy 1 Lossiemouth 0.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry 2 St Patrick's Ath 0: Bohemians 0 Sligo Rovers 0; Bray Wanderers 0 Finn Harps 4: Dundalk 3 Cork City 0; Home Farm Everton 3 Shelbourne 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derry City	31	18	10	3	53	23	64
Bohemians	31	15	9	7	39	28	54
Shelbourne	31	15	8	8	51	33	53
St Patricks Ath	32	12	14	6	42	32	50
Cork City	31	13	8	10	30	26	47
Sligo Rovers	32	11	11	10	39	40	44
UCD	32	12	7	13	33	37	43
Finn Harps	32	11	8	13	42	39	41
Shamrock R	31	9	12	10	39	43	39
Dundalk	32	9	9	14	34	48	36
Bray W	31	5	6	20	27	57	21
Home Farm E	32	3	10	19	25	50	19

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 0 Cliftonville 1, Crusaders 0 Coleraine 0; Glenavon 1 Portadown 2: Linfield 0 Glentoran 0 First division: Ballymena 0 Omagh 1, Carrick 0 Ballyclare 4; Larne 4 Distillery 4; Newry 0 Bangor 1

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1

FORECASTS: Half-time: No claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is good, seven score draws and ten no-score draws. Full-time: No claims required — forecast is very low: 14 score draws and three no-score draws

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL

Aberdeen slide gives Celtic momentum

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

CELTIC may be prolonging the agony rather than sustaining a challenge, but, with a 3-0 victory over Aberdeen, they have thrust Rangers' celebration of a ninth successive Bell's Scottish League championship into next month. Even if Celtic defeat Hibernian on May 4, the Ibrox side will clinch the title should they claim a point from a home match with Motherwell the next day.

With so much reckoning to be done, Aberdeen were caught up in the equation and mangled by it. For months, their supporters have suffered torment by tedium. Their team has won just once in 20 games and the abundance of draws in that sequence has tended to numb them, but yesterday torpor gave way to grievance.

With Celtic 2-0 ahead, Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, took off both his forwards, Billy Dodds and Dean Windass. No doubt he had some strategic purpose in mind, but the people who had followed the side to Glasgow saw no reason to probe his thinking. They treated the substitution of favoured players as an affront, not a tactic.

"Aitken must go," came the conventional chant from one corner of Celtic Park. The mood was better encapsulated in a form of protest. "Stand up if you've had enough," people yelled, jumping to their feet.

Aberdeen won the Coca-Cola Cup last season and were second in the table as recently as December, but it is only the scale of their difficulties that has caught the eye since. In response, Aitken has introduced a pack of players from the reserves, but when youngsters are blooded, their noses tend to get bloodied.

The team needs new, mature players, but Aberdeen give the impression of a club that has paused for thought. The emergence of Stewart Milne, a millionaire, as executive vice-chairman has brought an appraisal of operations and a flotation is likely that could raise as much as £15 million. At present, however, supporters who hunger for change cannot be consoled by abstruse plans.

Aberdeen have turned into the solution to everyone else's problems. Yesterday, they delivered another batch of solace in the East End of Glasgow. Celtic had not won any of their past five matches and Jorge Cadete had failed to find the net since March 1. By full time, remedies had been provided.

The Portugal forward scored twice, taking his total for the season to 30. With Aberdeen proving inept in defence and aimless in attack, Celtic's anxieties were given the afternoon off. In the 1-1 draw with Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-finals last week, even a first division side could illustrate the trepidation within Tommy Burns's team.

Aberdeen, though, were unable to delay Celtic long enough to make them fret. Callow defending by Jamie Buchan, in the 22nd minute, permitted Tosh McKinlay's cross to drop over him and reach Cadete, who had enough to time to run through a checklist of possible finishes before concluding that a gentle lob over Stillie was appropriate.

The forward was later to claim that his recent estrangement from the act of scoring owed much to the need to play when ill with flu and hampered by an ankle injury. Others in the side, however, do not enjoy such easy explanations and, of late, there has been particular disparagement of Thom.

Two-footed, swift and intelligent, the German has generally failed to exert influence in the club's key games over the past two years. An admirable display yesterday will have been relished by the crowd, but it could also increase irritation with the scarcity of sightings of Thom's excellence.

After 52 minutes, he steered a splendid pass behind the Aberdeen defence, leaving McKinlay to deliver the deep cross from which Donnelly put Celtic 2-0 ahead. Thom might have scored the third, having burst past Stillie, but, as the ball ran from him, Cadete greedily rolled it in.

Although this insignificant match could be seen on terrestrial television, a crowd of 47,293 still preferred to observe in person. As they look forward to the Scottish Cup semi-final replay, these supporters still await a Celtic side that can match their dependability.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Macari makes his point during the final Potteries derby to be played at the Victoria Ground

Sheron dents Vale's prospects

Stoke City 2
Port Vale 0

By Peter Ball

A RUN of one win in six games left Stoke City's play-off hopes in ruins. Yesterday, they did the next best thing for their supporters, throwing Port Vale's own aspirations into doubt as a goal in each half by Mike Sheron won the last Potteries derby at the Victoria Ground for Stoke.

"We worked hard, we looked the more hungry, more determined," Lou Macari, who announced on Saturday that he is to resign as Stoke manager at the end of the season, said. "They had a real incentive to get in the play-offs, but we had a bigger incentive — to beat them. Today was our day, our last shot at doing something for our supporters this season."

The defeat leaves Port Vale still in the last play-off spot, but they are now vulnerable to Crystal Palace, two points behind with a game in hand and Vale's last opponents of the season, at Selhurst Park. With Wolverhampton Wanderers at home in their other remaining fixture, they could hardly have a harder run-in.

"Two wins could still put us in there, but we are going to have to be better than we were today," John Rudge, the Vale manager, said. "It was a very big disappointment. The breaks have gone against us, but you make your own breaks and we weren't good enough today."

In the first half, there was little to choose between the teams. It was as bad as can possibly be imagined from a local derby with a lot at stake — tetchy, scrappy, badly refereed, with hardly a pass, let alone a complete passing movement, worthy of the name.

The few shots were mostly off target or straight at the goalkeeper, including the one that produced the half's goal in its dying moments. Sheron's weak shot was heading straight for Musselwhite until it hit Glover to wrong-foot the goalkeeper and leave him helpless.

The goal fitted the first half, but it served its purpose by lifting the second. Vale returned with more vigour and, in one spell, midway through the half, might twice have equalised, but Muggleton saved well from Hill and McCarthy and Stoke held out.

Apart from that brief spell, Stoke looked the hungrier and sharper side. Mike Macari hit the bar with an overhead kick and, when McMahon arrived to run free down the right, Stoke looked increasingly threatening. The second goal, though, like the first, was error-strewn. Glover's attempted clearance hit Beeston's arm and fell nicely for Sheron, whose finish this time brooked no argument to send the Stoke supporters home happy after an eventful weekend.

So why was Macari resigning? "You get to a stage where things eat away at you," he said. "I've got to go to Edinburgh and win a court case I don't intend to lose — if I do lose, with all the costs, I'll be on the streets selling *The Big Issue*.

"That takes a lot of worry, a lot of time and it's not a job you can do while managing a football club. Originally, it had been scheduled for June, but it's now back to September and could take five weeks. I couldn't be away at a time when we're moving to a new stadium and it's the start of the season."

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): C Muggleton — A Pickering, J Whittle, L Sigurdsson, A Griffin — S Flynn (sub G McMahon, 73min), R Wallace, C Beeston (sub N Mackenzie, 89), R Forsyth — M Sheron, M Macari.
PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill, N Aspin, D Glover, A Tankard — J McCarthy (sub S Talbot, 70), I Bogie, A Porter, R Koordes (sub. W Cordon, 70) — L Mills, A Naylor.
Referee: D Allison.

Shield triumph has Knighton juggling for joy

Carlisle United 0
Colchester United 0
(aet; Carlisle win 4-3 on pens)

By Russell Kempson

MICHAEL KNIGHTON, the Carlisle United chairman, has experienced many memorable moments in his life, such as the time that he juggled the ball on the pitch at Old Trafford during his ill-fated attempt to take control of Manchester United, and the time that he invited universal ridicule by claiming that he had sighted an unidentified flying object. Yesterday, at Wembley, was better. Much better.

Carlisle won the Auto Windscreens Shield final, after a penalty shoot-out against Colchester United, and Knighton managed a modicum of restraint as Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, handed over the prize. After all, it is not the done thing to act too extravagantly in the royal box.

At last, as the players embarked on their lap of honour, he could hold back no more. Down the steps and on to the grass he ran, hugging everybody and swirling a scarf high above his head in celebration. It was Knighton in his element and few would begrudge him his memorable moment, again.

In some small way, it helped to erase the horrors of two years ago, when Carlisle, on their only previous visit to Wembley, had lost to Birmingham City in the final of the same competition. Paul Tait's "golden goal" had produced sudden-death, a shattering emptiness at the fact that their efforts had all been in vain. This time, it was so different.

"You see all these shoot-outs on TV, when the big boys are doing it, and you think it'll never happen to you," Mervyn Day, the Carlisle manager, said. "When it does, it's unbelievable. We've got three games left in the league and perhaps we can win the title as well. That really would be a special double."

As all Wembley occasions, it had promised much. The supporters of Colchester, bedecked in blue and white, and Carlisle, in deckchair green, white and red, mingled amicably outside the old stadium. Inflatable sheep, exported from Cumbria for the day, added a touch of humour.

Yet there was little comical or entertaining about the first half, which began at a pedestrian pace. Colchester's cause was not helped by the loss of Smart, their leading scorer, through injury after only 23 minutes. Greene rightfully received a booking, one of eight cautions in the game, for inflicting the damage.

The second half showed an improvement, with Colchester adopting a more thoughtful approach and using the wide open spaces to greater effect. Still no goals, though, and none in extra time. At least Carlisle had avoided another acquaintance with the golden bullet.

Penalties it was and payback time for Tony Caig, the Carlisle goalkeeper, who had been beaten by Tait's winner in 1995. Though Colchester led 3-1 in the shoot-out, Caig saved from Duguid and Cawley to allow Hayward, the Carlisle captain, to score the winning spot-kick. "You just dive one way and hope," Caig said. "That more than makes up for two years ago."

It had not been a good game, it was too fractured by far, between the evenly-matched Nationwide League third division bedfellows, but at least the sponsors were happy. They are to invest more than £750,000 in a new three-year deal. The final also attracted a bigger crowd than the Liverpool v Manchester United fixture at Anfield on Saturday morning, as the public address system proudly announced, so the shield clearly means something to somebody.

It certainly does to Knighton, ball-juggler and UFO-spotter extraordinaire. Earlier in the week, he had threatened to withdraw Carlisle from the final because of a dispute over the club's share of the television money. Yesterday, he was glad he came.

CARLISLE UNITED (3-5-2): A Caig — D Walling, W Varty, S Pounewatchy — R Delap, S Hayward, P Conway, W Aspinall, O Archdeacon — A Smart (sub R Thomas, 23min; sub: M Jansen, 94), L Peacock
COLCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): C Emberson — J Dunne, D Greene, P Cawley, P Gibbs (sub C Fry, 105) — P Abrahams (sub. K Duguid, 91), D Gregory (sub A Locke, 84), S Whitton, R Wilkins — M Sale, A Adcock.
Referee: J Kirkby

Barnsley bristle at merchants of doom

Crystal Palace 1
Barnsley 1

By Ivo Tennant

SO BARNSLEY must wait a while longer until they are assured of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. Until tomorrow, perhaps, when they are away to Portsmouth, or, more realistically, their match at home to Bradford City on Saturday. To their chagrin, though, they find they are not being praised for their football this season, but are being judged already on how they will fare at the highest level.

Before such comments are passed, though, consideration should be given to their achievement this season. Who, after all, thinks of Barnsley other than for its nurturing of Dickie Bird, Michael Parkinson and miners strikes? The struggles the football club has endured over previous decades were encapsulated in comparisons with Crystal Palace in the match programme.

For Barnsley, the third and fourth divisions featured prominently. Now, no sooner are they on the verge of reaching the Premiership than they are told they will last in such company for barely a season. Mark McGhee — whose Wolverhampton Wanderers team are, it should be noted, five points and a place behind — does not give them a hope.

Steve Coppell, the Palace caretaker-manager, was much more considerate. "If Barnsley do come straight back down, that will still be better than staying in the first division," he said.

Nobody doubts the magnitude of Barnsley's task. However, to go by this markedly ordinary match, neither they nor Palace would last for long in the Premiership.

Palace scored first, through the kind of header by Shipperley that would be classified nowadays as an old-fashioned centre forward's goal. The equaliser was just about as archaic. Linighan shoved Wilkinson over with the clumsiest of challenges and Thompson scored from the ensuing penalty.

It is imperative that Palace beat Reading on Wednesday if they are to take part in the play-offs this season. That is not merely Coppell's estimation. He will know next month whether he will become a full-time manager again, which is what he wishes to be.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-1-4-2): C Nash — A Roberts, G Davies, A Linighan — S Rodger — M Edworthy, D Hopkin, R Houghton, D Gordon — N Shipperley, B Dyer
BARNSLEY (4-3-1-2): D Watson — N Eaden, M Appleby (sub M Bullock, 69min), A Moses, A de Zeeuw — D Sheridan, J Hendrie, N Thompson — C Marcelle — N Redfearn, P Wilkinson
Referee: C Wilkes

Change at Crewe for direct route

Brentford 0
Crewe Alexandra 2

By Nick Szczepanik

CREWE Alexandra's tendency to overdo their natural passing game on occasions, often to the detriment of their results, has been remarked upon. The odd moment apart — old habits die hard, after all — they showed another, more direct, side to their play at Brentford on Saturday in a victory that virtually ensures their third successive appearance in the Nationwide League second division play-offs.

"This is a timely victory for us," Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, said. "It was an awful game from my point of view, a passing point of view, but a good team performance."

It helped that they were playing a team who were face to face with their demon. Although still in second place despite this defeat, Brentford, apart from a narrow victory last Tuesday against a weakened Chesterfield, have been unable to win at Griffin Park and this time they saw even one of the draws that have bedevilled their home record slip away.

"It's not over yet," David Webb, the Brentford manager, said afterwards, "but this was a wasted opportunity, a massive blow."

The strain has been showing. Webb, who has already tendered his resignation once this season, manhandled one of his players, Marcus Bent, before substituting him in midweek. Bent was involved in Brentford's best moment on Saturday, his run and shot across goal just failing to become a cross for Asaba, and one of their worst, his control letting him down when left alone to collect (or not collect, as it happened) a cross.

Unfortunately for him, Brentford went behind immediately afterwards when Anthrobus touched on the resulting goal kick for Adebola to shoot low past Dearden. Uncomplicated stuff by Crewe standards, as Gradi admitted.

The second goal, for ambition and execution, was simply one to bore your grandchildren with. Shaun Smith, several yards inside his own half, saw his chance to send a wind-assisted free kick sailing over Dearden into the net. Route one, in fact, in its purest form.

BRENTFORD (4-4-2): K Dearden — B Statham, B Ashby (sub M McPherson, 11min), J Bates, I Anderson — M Bent (sub, G Hurdle, 60), P Smith, D McGhee, K Dennis — C Asaba, R Taylor
CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-4-2): J Kearton — L Unsworth, A Westwood, S Macauley, S Smith — R Savage, P Charnock, G Whalley, S Johnson — D Adebola, S Anthrobus.
Referee: N Barry

Hereford keep relegation issue alive

Hereford United 1
Torquay United 1

By David Powell

ON THE pitch and off it at Edgar Street on Saturday, Hereford United's last game of the season was being given the hard sell. The Hereford players were so in step with the drive to make a big day of Brighton's visit on May 3, with a performance so bedraggled that it was guaranteed to keep the relegation issue alive, that perhaps they should have been dressed in marketing executive suits rather than black and white football kit.

Hereford could have won had they played merely to good Vauxhall Conference standard, of which they may learn more next season. However, they were as poor as Torquay United in a game that fell below acceptable levels of skill and entertainment for the Nationwide League. A draw dropped Hereford into bottom-but-one place in the third division, three points above Brighton with two games to play.

Commercially, it was an acceptable result in the short-term, because Hereford supporters are now likely to snap up the remaining tickets for the first full house at Edgar Street this season, though that it is not to suggest it was deliberate.

Should results next Saturday follow home and away form, Brighton will beat Doncaster Rovers at the Goldstone Ground and Hereford will lose at Leyton Orient. That would leave Brighton and Hereford equal on points when they meet. Brighton have never won at Edgar Street, though their meetings have been few.

An office outside the ground reported only 2,000 tickets remaining, with a warning to hurry or face disappointment. The half-time tannoy message reminded supporters to buy in advance because the game was all-ticket. "Purchase your ticket NOW," the match-day programme implored.

Hereford's good fortune was to find themselves playing the division's worst team on recent form, now only one win from their last 16 matches. Torquay took a 45th-minute lead when Winter headed in Hathaway's corner. Hereford equalised in the 59th minute when Agana scrambled the ball in after Newland, the Torquay goalkeeper, won the weekend award for a David James impression.

HEREFORD UNITED (3-5-2): T Wood — D Smith (sub: J Brough, 46min), D Norton, T Matthewson — B Sandeman, M Turner (sub A Agana, 46), B McGorry, C Hargreaves, M Fishlock — J Williams, A Foster
TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R Newland — D Chandler, A Watson, L Barrow — S Winter (sub. D Hinchelwood, 86), P Mitchell (sub J Howell, 5), C Oatway, I Hathaway, G Nelson — A McFarlane, R Jack
Referee: P Richards

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Cumbrians warm to captain's moment of glory

Cumbria	21
Somerset	13

By Michael Aylwin

WHEN one thinks of the traditional seats of power in county rugby, Cumbria and Somerset do not spring to mind. Both have spent years in the shadow of dominant neighbours, but the final of the CIS county championship on Saturday was their turn to enjoy the spotlight at Twickenham.

Perhaps fittingly, it was Cumbria who triumphed, having not made the final since 1924. Last season, they lost every match in their qualifying group, but this time they had an unbeaten campaign.

The crowd of 8,000 hardly stretched Twickenham's capacity, but they made a disproportionately large amount of noise, swelling to peak volume whenever Cumbria scored. Mark Richardson was particularly grateful for the numbers that travelled the length of the country to lend their support. The Cumbria captain, a genial giant of 35 with a well proportioned paunch, was making a record 67th appearance for his county and after countless pastings from the likes of Lancashire and Yorkshire over the years, this victory was something of a cathartic experience.

Cumbria were worth their win, striking a more pleasing balance between backs and forwards. The Somerset pack totally dominated the set-pieces in the first half, yet found themselves 11-8 behind at half-time. The looseness of their ball retention was a big problem and, despite taking the lead with an early penalty by Edmonds, they had to rely on a try by Rees from a lineout just before half-time to stay in touch, after a try by Bell had given Cumbria an eight-point advantage.

King scored an early second-half try for Somerset, but Cumbria responded five minutes later when Milnes finished off a fine move by the backs. Scott converted, before kicking another penalty that sealed victory.

SCORERS: Cumbria: Tries: Bell, Milnes. Conversion: Scott. Penalty goals: Scott (3). Somerset: Tries: Rees, King. Penalty goal: Edmonds

CUMBRIA: G Cook (Aspatria), D Warwick (Waterloo), P Burns (Furness), M Lynch (Wigton), S Davidson (Aspatria), M Scott (Aspatria), P Thompson (Wigton); S Irving (Aspatria), M Armstrong (Wigton), J McCune (Aspatria), S Milnes (Aspatria), A Bell (Wigton), B Atkinson (Egremont), S Cusack (Aspatria), M Richardson (Aspatria). Cusack replaced by J Cartmell (Wigton, 25min); McCune replaced by D Johnston (Wigton, 67); Cook replaced by P Cusack (Cockermouth, 70); Atkinson replaced by P Hancock (Aspatria, 72).

SOMERSET: M Westcott (Keynsham), D Underwood (Weston-super-Mare), D Fox (Keynsham), A Webber (Bridgwater and Albion), P Blackett (Keynsham), N Edmonds (Bridgwater and Albion), L Hirons (Keynsham); J Barnes (Bridgwater and Albion), C Rees (Bridgwater and Albion), A Harris (Bridgwater and Albion), J King (Hornets), M Rackham (Bridgwater and Albion), M Curry (Exeter), M Venner (Weston-super-Mare). S Withey (Keynsham). Fox replaced by S Bennett (Keynsham, 40min); Venner replaced by B Thirlwall (Bridgwater and Albion, 40); Hirons replaced by N Lloyd (Clifton, 76)

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

RUGBY UNION: HILL'S LOFTY AMBITIONS INTACT AFTER WEST COUNTRY CLUB RETAIN TOP-FLIGHT STATUS

Gloucester live to fight another day

Gloucester	11
Harlequins	27

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Wood, the Harlequins hooker, is halted by Mapletoft as Lumsden, right, and Devereux converge on the action. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

ENGLISH rugby's have-nots lost to one of the first division's wealthier denizens at Kingsholm, but there were few mourners around the streets of Gloucester. Results on Saturday confirmed that the national sporting institution that is Gloucester rugby club will remain among the elite next season, a premiership club no less, and that the money their new investor will bring is to be spent with care.

Another ten days will confirm who is prepared to put a sum in excess of £2 million into the club, enabling Richard Hill to achieve his ambition of 26 full-time professionals in a squad of 46 and so compete on a level footing with Harlequins, Wasps and all the others who have not had to strain every sinew, as Gloucester's players have this season, to avoid relegation from the top flight of the Courage Clubs Championship.

"We will be making one major signing very shortly," Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, said and four, maybe five, will follow, all players of international calibre. Philippe Saint-André, the France wing, who is looking to leave Montferrand, has been seen at Kingsholm this month and it is obvious to all that the midfield is badly in need of a touch of class.

"At the moment, we cannot afford one below-par performance," Hill said, "but we have achieved the objective we agreed upon at the start of this season, to remain in the first division. Next season, I would hope to challenge for a top-four place and we should be capable of winning something during the four years I have left on my contract."

That Gloucester achieved their ambition came courtesy of Bristol's defeat by London Irish. That they have little prospect of Heineken Cup rugby next season — unlike Harlequins, who sustained their assault on a top-four place — may not matter at this stage and Hill has already had productive contractual talks with squad members, all of whom will have a role to play next year and whom he will now be able to protect from predators.

Among his most-valued assets is Phil Greening, the England hooker, who will miss the game with Bristol on Saturday after damaging his forearm. However, an X-ray showed that no bones were broken, a relief to England, who hope to see him progress on tour in Argentina next month. Indeed, Mike Slemen, the England assistant coach, was present to witness Greening's busy first-half performance and another productive afternoon for Daren O'Leary, who may yet be a late addition to the tour party.

O'Leary, who is competing with the likes of Shane Roiser and Jim Naylor for the last place in the party, scored his 26th try of the season to round off a competent Harlequins performance in which they quelled any pretence Gloucester may have had to repeating their home wins over Leicester, Saracens and Wasps.

They also demonstrated to Gloucester what money can buy, in the shape of Thierry Lacroix. The French stand-off half not only collected 17 points, but shaped the manner of victory with his tactical kicking; although Gloucester stood only 13-11 down just after half-time with the cold breeze behind them, they foundered in the face of a taut defence and a solid lineout display that was a tribute to Llewellyn, Davison and the American, Gross.

Nor were the London club put out by the loss of Jenkins with damaged knee ligaments, which, happily, should not affect his availability for England next month either. They played a sensible, constructive game and the Shed, for once, could find little on which to expend their acerbic wit: a couple of late knock-ons by Carling gave them some fuel, but they well knew that the former England captain had produced the soundest of games.

Benton gave them cause for early optimism when he pursued his own kick ahead and Harlequins let the ball bounce on their own line, leaving the scrum half to touch down. That erased a close-range penalty by Lacroix, who exchanged further goals with Mapletoft before Williams gave Harlequins a lead they were not to lose. Davison won the lineout and O'Leary, off the blind-side wing, made the extra man before the long pass put Williams clear.

A flurry of aggression, probably mandatory between these opponents, spurred Mapletoft to a long penalty, but Harlequins took it all in their stride. Lacroix kicked towards touch, but the ball bounced inwards, defeating the defenders and leaving Williams to stride on before finding Lacroix at his elbow. The Frenchman's quick hands contributed significantly towards the final try, too, Staples erupting clear and O'Leary collecting his chip-kick to score what may yet prove to be one of the more important tries of his career.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Try: Benton. Penalty goals: Mapletoft (2). Harlequins: Tries: Williams, Lacroix, O'Leary. Conversions: Lacroix (3). Penalty goals: Lacroix (2)

GLOUCESTER: C Catling, A Lumsden, C Emmerson, M Roberts, M Lloyd; M Mapletoft, S Benton; A Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, A Stanley, R Fidler, D Sims, N Carter, S Devereux. Greening replaced by J Hawker (40min)

HARLEQUINS: J Staples; D O'Leary, P Mensah, W Carling, J Williams; T Lacroix, N Walshe; J Leonard, K Wood, A Ozdemir, W Davison, Gareth Llewellyn, L Gross, R Jenkins, L Cabannes. Jenkins replaced by G Allison (40); Ozdemir replaced by L Benezech (40). Mensah replaced by J Keyter (74).

Referee: J Pearson (Durham).

Dwyer gets positive response to outburst at Leicester

Leicester	22
Saracens	18

By Peter Bills

TO suggest a lack of pride among the players at Welford Road would once have been considered heresy, but Bob Dwyer, grim-faced and furious with rage, cast the ultimate aspersion at his Leicester players midway through this extraordinarily volatile Courage Clubs Championship first division match on Saturday.

The coach strode onto the field at half-time with Leicester trailing 18-9 (three tries to nil) to deliver a withering indictment of individual failings. "No passion, no commitment," he barked at them. "Is anyone going to follow Martin Johnson or are you going to let him play the whole game on his own?"

Little that happened in a match of modest technical quality matched the intensity of Dwyer's words, but what he said, besides being a significant turning-point in the fortunes of the club, raised two serious questions. The first was whether certain household names are likely to have a future at Welford Road. Dwyer has been exasperated by the play of certain team members and as many as six or seven of the side on Saturday may leave this summer.

The second point ought to raise concerns well beyond the Midlands club. Why was it that Johnson, the British Isles captain, needed his coach to provide a dressing-down to under-performing players? It is hard to believe Francois Pienaar, even just as a captain, would have waited for his coach to arrive to goad his men.

Leicester won only because Saracens handed them the game. A Leicester victory was imperative for Heineken Cup qualification, but they may still need to beat Harlequins on Saturday to be sure of entry. Stransky should return for that one, but Greenwood, also badly missed for his midfield creativity, could still be absent.

Leicester raised their game in the second half, a penalty try for three successive scrum collapses turning the match before Saracens' technical errors allowed John Liley to kick them to defeat in a match that they should have won at a canter. Indeed, these are troubling times for the London club. Pienaar's elevation to player-coach surely raises questions about the future of Mark Evans. Lynagh, who has made just nine league appearances and played only 18 games this season, lasted only 17 minutes before a scratched eye forced his departure. His replacement, Lee, promptly missed two conversions, a simple dropped goal and a penalty.

Daly, another Australian to disappoint, was withdrawn immediately after the Saracens scrum had disintegrated for the penalty try, but amid all their failings and constant mistakes that, at one stage, gave Leicester nine successive second-half penalties. Sella, Diprose, Hill and Bracken excelled. Much, much more recruitment is needed to enhance their splendid work.

SCORERS: Leicester: Try: Penalty try. Conversion: J Liley. Penalty goals: J Liley (5). Saracens: Tries: Ebongalame, P Wallace, Pienaar. Penalty goal: Lynagh

LEICESTER: J Liley, S Hackney, N Malone, C Joiner, R Underwood; R Liley, A Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, E Miller. Miller replaced by W Drake-Lee (67min)

SARACENS: M Singer; R Wallace, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, M Ebongalame; M Lynagh, K Bracken; A Daly, G Botterman, P Wallace, F Pienaar, P Johns, A Copsey, R Hill, A Diprose. Lynagh replaced by A Lee (17). Johns replaced by C Yandell (58): Daly replaced by A Olver (65)

Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).

Townsend exposes frailties

West Hartlepool	17
Northampton	57

By a Correspondent

EAST, West, home's best. That, certainly was Northampton's assessment of a disappointing Courage Clubs Championship campaign, until three weeks ago. Eight consecutive defeats away from home — contrasting with their seven victories at Franklins Gardens — had left them perched in mid-table.

Though still there, emphatic victories at Orrell and West Hartlepool, the two basement clubs, have at least gone some way to convincing their followers that they can perform on the hoof.

For a side with championship ambitions at the season's start and with arguably the best coach in the championship in Ian McGeechan, Northampton have been a letdown. The fact is that, despite an enviable array of talent they had scored a mere five tries in nine games before Saturday.

Saturday's nine-try rout of West was of far greater significance to the Durham club than Northampton. Barring a mathematical miracle, they are now doomed to spend the 1997-98 season in the second division. Yet they can look back on almost every defeat suffered this season and pinpoint periods of play that suggested that they could compete with the best. Saturday's was a typical curate's egg effort. Silva rounded off two excellent scoring moves, Connolly lost the ball on the line and Cordle was only denied by a slack pass.

In contrast, Hunter had a field day, sparking many of Northampton's best moves. From set-piece positions, though, it was Townsend who exposed West's defence with two superb tries before making another for Thorneycroft.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Silva (2). Conversions: C John (2). Penalty goal: C John. Northampton: Tries: Townsend (2), Cassell (2), Allen (2), Merlin, Thorneycroft, Beal. Conversions: Hepher (6)

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Silva, S John, J Connolly, T Knowles, G Cordle; C John, M Roderick; D Barnes, A Peacock, V Hartland, C Murphy, G Rowlands, J Ions, R Earnshaw, I Morgan. Rowlands replaced by D Mitchell (40min). Knowles replaced by L Botham (40); Peacock replaced by M Kennedy (58). Roderick replaced by P Harvey (60): Murphy replaced by W de Jonge (77).

NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter; N Beal, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thorneycroft; A Hepher, M Dawson; M Volland, A Clarke, M Hynes, J Phillips, S Foale, D Merlin, J Cassell, G Seely. Hynes replaced by M Stewart (40min): Foale replaced by J Hearn (40), Townsend replaced by C Moir (67); Clarke replaced by C Johnson (68). Seely replaced by S Barnes (74); Allen replaced by B Taylor (79)

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

Humphreys provides Irish with possible escape route

Bristol	26
London Irish	38

By Barney Spender

RELEGATION battles do not come much better than this. There was passion and invention from both sides in a gripping contest that was settled in the most dramatic fashion with three tries in injury time.

They were all scored by London Irish, who thus gained their first back-to-back wins of the season and virtually guaranteed themselves and Bristol a place in the play-offs. Theoretically, West Hartlepool can still catch the exiles, but, with only two games left, they must still make up a points deficit of 217. The issue should be settled beyond all doubt when the two teams meet next Saturday.

The mood for the Irish at Bristol was not the hysteria that greeted the midweek triumph over Leicester or even their last-gasp win over Harlequins a fortnight ago. It was more one of sheer relief. "It's a big turning point. We have been playing to get into the play-offs and, from there on, it's like cup finals," Willie Anderson, the coach, said.

The do-or-die intensity of the play-offs may well suit the Irish, for whom David Humphreys, their stand-off half, produced ten minutes of inspiration to eclipse his rival for the Ireland No 10 jersey, Paul Burke. Until that last passage, Humphreys had shone only fitfully, like the sun on a generally overcast and blustery afternoon. His goal-kicking was poor and he often dithered in choosing his options, although this may have owed something to the slowness of Hogan's service, which, for a scrum half of his quality, remains a serious weakness.

Fulcher got an early try from a lineout, but then, with their forwards controlling things up front, Bristol began to take charge and fine tries from Breeze and Jones followed after some excellent approach work.

The Irish, though, refused to crack and sneaked ahead 13-12 in injury time of the first half when Spicer, their promising No 8, went over. Shortly after the break, Woods put them further ahead, but this was the cue for Bristol to pick up the tempo again and tries from Corkery and Hull put them 26-18 ahead and, apparently, out of sight.

Back again came the Irish and, after ten minutes camped ineffectively on the Bristol line and with only six minutes remaining on the clock, Humphreys slotted a simple penalty to reduce the deficit to five points. From then on, he ran the Bristol defence ragged. One break down the left would certainly have brought a try for Dawson, but for an immense tackle from Jones on the line. Then, with 80 minutes up, Humphreys stole through to touch down under the posts and O'Shea's conversion put the Irish ahead.

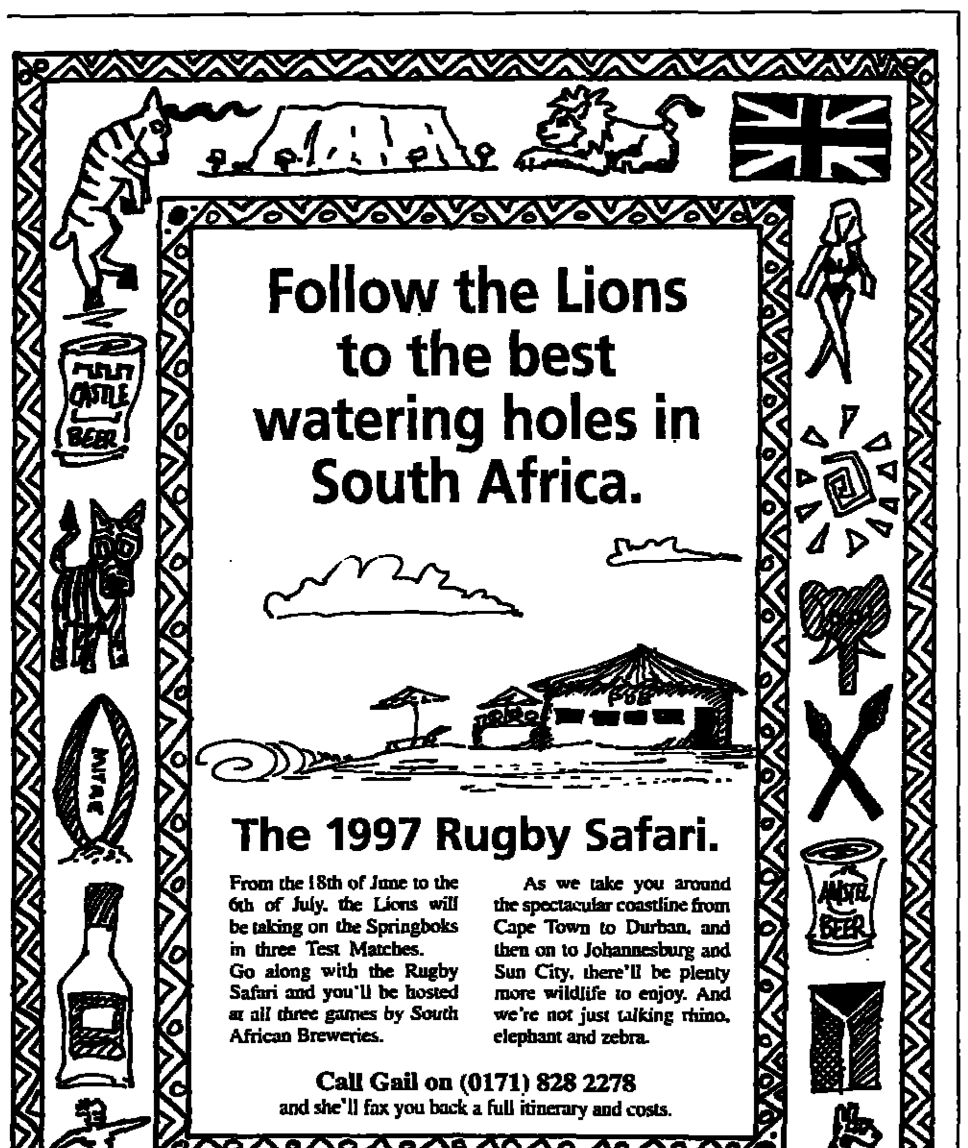
Injury time, though, lasted five minutes and as Bristol tried to fight back, Humphreys had time for another skittering run down the right to put Hennessy in and then finished things off with a second try of his own.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Breeze, Jones, Corkery, Hull. Conversions: Burke (3). London Irish: Tries: Humphreys (2), Fulcher, Woods, Spicer, Hennessy. Conversion: O'Shea. Penalty goals: Humphreys (2).

BRISTOL: J Lewsey; P Hull, F Waters, K Maggs, B Breeze; P Burke, R Jones; D Hinkins, B McConnell, V Fulman, D Corkery, S Shaw, C Eagle, R Collins, E Rollitt. Eagle replaced by P Adams (26min)

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, N Woods, J Bishop, N Burrows, R Hennessy; D Humphreys, N Hogan; J Fitzpatrick, T Redmond, G Halpin, K O'Connell, G Fulcher, J Davidson, K Dawson, K Spicer. O'Connell replaced by C Bird (40), Bird replaced by B Walsh (57); Woods replaced by S Burns (74)

Referee: C Rees (Somerset)



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Former high-fliers struggle in the doldrums

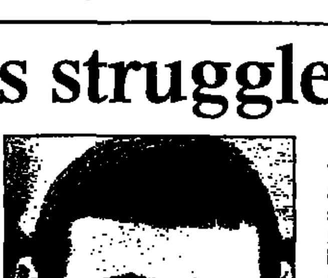
Neath	38
Newport	8

By Gerald Davies

THESE are nail-biting times for Neath as they hover in the relegation zone in this critical season, when the first division will be reduced by four clubs to leave only eight in the top flight in future. Anyone with anything resembling a warm heart will feel sympathy for their predicament.

Not only have they won the championship twice since the divisional structure began at the start of the decade, but during that time they have not been outside the top four. Furthermore, under Darryl Jones, their director of rugby, they have played a brand of rugby that has been, especially last season, the toast of Wales. Yet, suddenly, their first division presence is in jeopardy.

Before the match on Saturday, Jones promised that if things did not go his team's way, he would give his interval talk and then would retire to Victoria Gardens nearby in the hope that the silver band might be performing, which might help sooth his troubled mind. In the event, he did not have to. Having started the match — which the club chairman, John Williams, had described as the most important in the club's history — in none too smooth a fashion, Neath produced a few inspiring moves that gave them a 12-3 lead at half-time. Better still for the anxious Jones, they had a stiff breeze in their favour in the final 40 minutes.



John Davies: in top form

When their forwards and backs indulge in slick interpassing, there are few teams who can match Neath. They do not go out of their way to set up mauls and rucks: instead, the ball is passed to somebody in a better position. Neath did commit too many errors in this match, but there were sufficient hints that, given a couple more mature players, they could not only be a force again but also a joy to watch.

The two Williamses at forward — Barrie and Steve — and John Davies were in storming form. Darren Morris, who emerged from the herd of mauling forwards to run like a raging bull for his try in the second half, was never far behind. Newport could not match this four in the loose.

Yet the man who set the seal on the victory was Paul Williams at stand-off half. Newport, who are themselves not free of relegation fears, had begun forcefully enough — Davies, Workman and Taylor were a good combination in the back row and Goodey a powerful presence — but they had nobody to break free in the way that Williams twice did to score fine tries.

His first from a scrum 25 metres out was a classical dummy and break that led to a score under the posts. In the second half, he ran in similar fashion but this time from a ruck. It was this try, Neath's fourth, that put the game beyond the visitors' reach. Case converted both.

Richard Jones scored the second of his team's tries in the first half, to which the visitors could only respond with a Curtis penalty. Higgs extended the lead after the interval. Morris and Geraint Evans scored the other two, but David Smith's try for Newport denied Neath their second bonus point.

SCORERS: Neath: Tries: P Williams (2), Jones, Higgs, Morris, Evans. Conversions: Case (3), Evans. Newport: Try: Smith. Penalty goal: Curtis.

NEATH: D Case, C Higgs, G Evans, J Funnell, R Jones; P Williams, P Horgan; D Morris, B Williams, J Davies, A Kembery, S Martin, N Watkins, S Gardner, S Williams.

NEWPORT: S Davies, G Curtis, A Palfrey, J Colderley, D Smith, A Lewson, N Lloyd; R Snow, I Jones, S Cronk, V Davies, R Goodey, I Gough, G Taylor, M Workman. Goodey replaced by C Crane (56min). Jones replaced by G Hicks (61). Snow replaced by S Duggan (69); Taylor replaced by R Parks (72). Curtis replaced by L Jones (75)

Referee: N Whitehouse (Llangennith)

RUGBY UNION: LEAGUE LEADERS NEED JUST ONE MORE POINT FROM TWO REMAINING GAMES TO CLAIM COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP CROWN

Tired Sale unable to halt Wasps title march

Wasps	36
Sale	10

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONE black-clad Wasps hand is on the Courage Clubs Championship trophy. Admittedly, they must leave their comfort zone at Loftus Road to add another, but one point from their remaining two games, against Northampton on Saturday and Harlequins a week later, will be sufficient to bring the league title back to London, where it has resided only once — at Wasps in 1990.

Now only Bath, the 1996 league winners, can overtake them and that on points difference. Given Bath's resurgent form, they will hope to win their remaining three games, so Wasps must leave the champagne on ice until they have made certain; but their admirable organisation shows no sign of waning, and certainly not against a Sale team flagging badly in their third match in nine days.

Full results and league tables ... Page 38

It is Sale's turn to look deep within if they are to maintain their impetus up to the Pilkington Cup final on May 10 and sustain their European challenge. Defeat at Loftus Road yesterday pushed them out of the top four in the first division and their tired legs face another game on Wednesday, against London Irish. Thereafter, they must take on Bath and Leicester.

There was no shortage of possession for Sale, but a yawning chasm between them and Wasps in how they used it. Five minutes after the interval devastated the visitors as Wasps increased the pace of the game, drew mistakes from their opponents and ran in two tries that left Sale, already without Simon Mannix, their injured stand-off half, with a virtually impossible task.

The playing blend Wasps have established over the past 18 months, since the devastation visited on them by the loss to Newcastle of so much experience — Andrew, Ryan, Bates, Childs — is an object lesson for others. Henderson and Logan have settled in comfortably alongside such veterans of the club as White and Greenwood.

"We have been very good at hitting tackles, getting up and making another rather than killing the ball," Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, said. "Players will concede the ball. The mentality is to dislodge the ball in the tackle and, if we don't, make another tackle."

The stream of penalties that Sale conceded was the sign of a tired side and, with a marksman like Rees opposing them, was like signing their own death warrant. The loss of their own goalkicker, Mannix, with a lower-back injury early in the game was an additional blow, but more for the New Zealander's tactical skills than his points-scoring potential.

Sale's heaviest league defeat of the season started with Mannix kicking a simple penalty, but it was symptomatic of their distress that they promptly let the advantage lapse. From the restart, Mannix delivered a poor and unnecessary pass to Beim, who knocked on. Morris obstructed at the scrum and Rees, acclaimed by a crowd of 6,200, levelled the score.

Henderson scored the game's first try, aided by a visit from the Wasps medical staff. The centre collided with Baxendell, but his team-mates sustained the move long enough for Henderson to benefit from the magic sponge and arrive in time to take a tapped penalty and charge over. The Wasps defence, as absorbent as that same sponge, soaked up everything Sale had to offer and then offered them a lesson in tactical appreciation.

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Henderson, with Sheasby in support, leaves Morris, of Sale, grounded as he claims the first Wasps try

Mallinder sliced a clearance and Sheasby gobbled it up; King, whose judgment is becoming more acute game by game, made a half-break and Logan finished gleefully. Rees's second penalty gave Wasps a 16-3 lead at the interval, but, having taken 40 minutes to achieve so much, they all but doubled their tally in five minutes: Henderson scythed through and, though Greenstock was penalised in the tackle as Sheasby crossed, Sale contrived to give the ball away and Roiser trotted over.

Three minutes later, King opened the Sale midfield once more and Greenstock pinned back his ears to make the line. When Rees kicked another penalty, Wasps stood 30 points clear with the final quarter remaining.

"We are not playing well for the 80 minutes," Nigel Melville, director of rugby at Wasps, said. "These guys need to improve to keep up the standards they are setting themselves." Yet, at this stage of the season, they look a side that knows where it is going, whereas so many clubs are clinging to the ropes.

Moreover, Wasps had the last word. Baxendell and Yates created a try for Beim, but Wasps went straight back downfield and, though Sheasby was held on the line, King dropped his trademark goal from a mere 12 metres. There is more work to come for Wasps, but they must feel the end is in sight.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Henderson, Logan, Roiser, Greenstock. Conversions: Rees (2). Penalty goals: Rees (3). Dropped goal: King. Sale: Try: Beim. Conversion: Hadley. Penalty goal: Mannix.
WASPS: G Rees, S Roiser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, M Wood; D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, L Dallaglio, M Greenwood, A Reed, M White, C Sheasby. White replaced by P Scrivener (26-36 min and 48), Reed replaced by D Cronin (73); J Ufton temporary replacement for Roiser (8-12).
SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, A Hadley, T Beim, S Mannix, D Morris; P Winstanley, S Diamond, A Smith, J Mitchell, D Baldwin, D Erskine, D O'Grady, C Vyvyan. Mannix replaced by C Yates (16)
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Bath blossom after winter of discontent

Bath	40
Orrell	14

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

BATH may retain a mathematical chance of winning the Courage Clubs Championship first division title this season, but these are two sides whose attention is already focused beyond the present campaign.

"Next season started today," Sammy Southern, the director of rugby at Orrell, said after watching his side go down by six tries to two; for Bath, it might well have been running for a week already.

The demolition of Leicester last week meant a great deal to the champions. After a winter of not inconsiderable discontent, they proved that they do still have what it takes.

Andy Robinson, the club coach, compares this season with that of 1987-88, when the Bath team in which he played also won nothing. They did not make the same mistake for a decade.

"This season will help us in the learning process over the next five years," Robinson said. "We're winners; losing is not enjoyable, but you learn from it. It will help us to develop the necessary spirit and attitude."

Bath have been accused this season of destroying the hard-nosed attitude and close-knit team spirit that had served them so well for so long. Robinson accepts that mistakes have been made — there will be no more short-term signings from rugby league, no more squad system in which players take it in turns to have the afternoon off — but he remains confident that the future will be bright.

International arrivals such as Dan Lyle, the United States Eagle, and Féderico Méndez and German Llanes, from Argentina, are settling in, have learnt what it means to belong to the Bath family and the team is the stronger for their presence. Jim Blair is joining as full-time fitness coach from Auckland and will add an important southern hemisphere perspective.

"I can't wait for next season to start," Robinson said. "The benchmark was set last week to take our game on further."

It was never going to be easy on this chilly Saturday to repeat the performance that accounted for Leicester, albeit against an Orrell side now doomed to relegation. The visitors tackled bravely throughout and, while outgunned up front, never gave up.

"I never thought I would congratulate a team that's just been beaten," Southern said, "but I congratulated them today. In the best interests of the club, we need to go into the second division.

"We've got to sort the structure of the club out, strengthen the side and come back. There's a lot of talent in our part of the world. We've got to make sure we keep it."

Robinson is just as anxious to hang on to players who have been linked with possible moves. John Mallett, it seems, is not going to Richmond and Worcester will have their work cut out to lure Jonathan Callard away as player-coach.

"There's an offer there. There has to be some serious talking on all sides, but I am concentrating on Bath at the moment," Callard said.

The full back's fourth-minute try gave Orrell just the start that they did not need. Peters scored the first of his two tries from Catt's inside pass with 20 minutes gone and Méndez added the third before the break.

Lyon, the stout-hearted Orrell captain, carved his way through the Bath defence to keep his side in touch, but Peters and Ojomoh put the game beyond doubt before Hope scored the second for Orrell with 12 minutes left. Adebayo helped Bath to 40 points for the fifteenth time this season in injury time.

Robinson: confident

That said, it was a scrappy match, not helped by nine second-half substitutions. "Rugby games are all about developing a rhythm," Robinson said. "Today, we never really found it." Woe betide the rest when they do.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Peters (2), Callard, Méndez, Ojomoh, Adebayo. Conversions: Catt (4), Callard. Orrell: Tries: Lyon, Hope. Conversions: Hitchmough (2)

BATH: J Callard, J Sleightholme, M Perry, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, A Nicol; K Yates, F Méndez, J Mallett, R Webster, M Haag, G Llanes, E Peters, S Ojomoh. Mallett replaced by C Horsman (54min), Llanes replaced by B Cusack (54), Guscott replaced by R Butland (62), Nicol replaced by C Harrison (77); G French temporary replacement for Ojomoh (71-77)

ORRELL: D Lyon, J Naylor, G Hope, L Tuigamala, R Hitchmough; M McCarthy, R Saverimutto; M Worsley, A Moffat, S Turner, A Bennett, P Rees, C Cusani, R Higgs, P Anglesea. Turner replaced by J Cundick (47), Rees replaced by C Brierley (64), Hitchmough replaced by N Hitchen (73)
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Bennett kick retains cup for Saracens

Richmond	10
Saracens	13

BY ALISON KERVIN

IT WAS always going to be a closely fought women's Bread for Life Cup final, with Richmond, the 1997 league champions, against Saracens, the holders of the trophy. The 2,000 or so supporters that gathered at the Stoop Memorial Ground yesterday were treated to a thrilling finale.

The match burst into life when Saracens equalised ten minutes before the final whistle, after trailing for much of the match. At 10-10, with the minutes ticking away, both sides fought even more passionately for possession.

All the hard work was done in the forwards — where the equally-matched packs struggled for the upper hand until eventually, with just seconds left on the clock, Saracens were awarded a penalty in front of the posts and Amanda Bennett, the stand-off half, slotted the ball over to secure the cup.

The teams were closely matched, producing a sometimes turgid, defensive game early on, but some great performances from the backs offered light relief. In this respect, Pogo Patterson, the Richmond centre, who plays for Scotland, showed speed and vision. Given space, she is dynamic. She scored the second of Richmond's tries by running round her own pack and the Saracens' defence before cutting through to touch down after 30 minutes.

Richmond's first try had been scored by Karen Findlay, the captain, who played despite fracturing a rib at a match in Venice a couple of weeks ago. She went over after splendid pressure at a maul.

Collins, the Saracens outside centre, had crossed the line after three minutes, but Saracens made no further impression until Frost, their No 8, forced her way over to equalise ten minutes before the whistle.

In the morning, the Students Cup was won by Brunel University, who beat Staffordshire University 48-10, then, immediately before the Cup game, Litchfield beat Harlequins 15-10 in the North v South Junior Cup final.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Findlay, Patterson. Saracens: Tries: Collins, Frost. Penalty goal: Bennett
RICHMOND: S Lamburt; M Kingl, P Patterson, N Coffin, H Bullock; B Mills, S Peterson; K Findlay, S Dorrington, V Huxford, K Jenn, J Sutton, T Siwek, J Sheenn, S Wenn
SARACENS: M Cave, A Shepherd, P Collins, A De Biase, W Dixon; A Bennett, E Mitchell, J Byford, N Ponsford, T O'Reilly, J Ross, L Burgess, C Green, H Clayton, C Frost
Referee: S Womsley (Northants)

Queensland hooker earns lengthy ban

BRENDAN CANNON, the Queensland Reds hooker, has been suspended for 15 matches as a result of being cited for stamping on Alistair Murdoch, the New South Wales Waratahs wing, after the Super 12 game between the two teams in Sydney on Saturday, which Queensland won 26-16. Cannon was found guilty of misconduct and dangerous play by an Australian Rugby Union (ARU) judiciary panel, which described his actions as "extremely serious".

Six players in all were cited; the ARU panel decided on suspensions for two other players — Dan Crowley, the Queensland prop, and Richard Harry, the New South Wales prop, who received two and three-match bans respectively. There may yet be a further suspension when the case on Michael Brial, the New South Wales flanker, is reviewed today.

The controversy in Sydney overshadowed the magnificent 63-22 victory by Auckland Blues over Gauteng Lions. Gauteng suffered further when Kobus Wiese, their captain, was taken off with a suspected neck injury and severe concussion.

RUGBY LEAGUE: WOEFUL WARRINGTON SLUMP AS SHORTCOMINGS ARE EXPOSED BY SUPER LEAGUE LEADERS

Ruthless St Helens leave tame Wolves licking their wounds

St Helens	60
Warrington Wolves	16

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HOW did Warrington Wolves manage to beat Wigan three weeks ago? That fast-fading memory must sustain them in the aftermath of a shamefaced defeat yesterday. Just as the Stones Super League was beginning to look more competitive, Warrington turned in a performance with haunting overtones of three visits to Knowsley Road last year, when they shipped 200 points.

Asked if he could draw any comfort, Alex Murphy, the Warrington manager, said: "Yes, they didn't get 80." Against moribund opposition, St Helens could not help but be merciless in cherry-picking 11 tries.

The margin of St Helens' win puts them ahead of Bradford Bulls at the top of the table on points difference, but victory had its price. Alan Hunte tweaked a hamstring scoring his fifteenth try of the season and Chris Morley was put on report for an alleged high tackle and now has a nervous wait, 12 days before the Challenge Cup final.

Warrington's problems are serious and long-term. After his third game in charge, Darryl van de Velde said the defeats of Oldham Bears and Castleford Tigers had disguised certain deficiencies. These were not so much exposed by St Helens, as left bare by Warrington themselves, in giving up on the basics of tackling, passing and support play.

It was the biggest defeat of Van de Velde's coaching career. When Bobby Goulding converted the last St Helens try, it overtook the Wolves' 58-20 thrashing away to Bradford on the opening day as the heaviest defeat in the league this season.

Although he scored only one try, Paul Newlove, on his return from injury, was irresistible in carving open Warrington. Karle Hammond, too, scored just one try, but he laid on three more in another impressive showing at loose forward. Only when Newlove was in the sin-bin for a professional foul did Warrington find room for Kohe-Love to score after they had gone 32-0 down in 28 minutes.

Hunte: hamstring injury

Hunte's opening try, after which he pulled up in obvious pain, was an ominous sign of Warrington's risible defence. O'Neill plunged over from short range and three players caught and then lost Martyn. Newlove fended off three weak challenges to put Sullivan away.

Two tries by Forster and another by Vagana were scant consolation, as Martyn scampered over for his second. Before the final try by Anderson, Prescott, Haigh and Northey scored and Goulding made it eight successes from 12 goal attempts.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Martyn (2), Hunte, Newlove, O'Neill, Sullivan, Hammond, Prescott, Haigh, Northey, Anderson. Goals: Goulding (8). Warrington: Tries: Forster (2), Kohe-Love, Vagana

St Helens: S Prescott, D Arnold, A Hunte, P Newlove, A Sullivan, T Martyn, R Goulding, A Leathem, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, C Morley, K Hammond. Substitutes: A Haigh, V Matautia, A Northey, P Anderson

Warrington Wolves: N Vagana, R Henare, T Kohe-Love, J Roper, M Forster, K Shelford, L Bneis, W Stevens, P Hulme, G Chambers, T Talupu, G Mann, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: I Knott, C Rudd, S Finau, P Darbyshire

Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

Tigers' tale of woe continues

CASTLEFORD Tigers were left rooted to the bottom of the Stones Super League after losing 28-12 at home to the Halifax Blue Sox yesterday. Martin Pearson, the Halifax centre, did most of the damage, claiming 16 points with a try and six goals in Castleford's eighth successive defeat.

Stuart Raper, who takes over as Castleford coach on Thursday, will have his work cut out to keep his team in the Super League, on the evidence of this match. The only time that they looked to be in the game was when Dean Sampson scored a fine try to level the scores following an early try from Damien Munro.

Halifax twice scored tries when they had a man in the sin bin, first through Gillespie and later through Pearson. Moana also scored a try for Halifax, picking up a loose ball and shrugging off a tackle to cross from 20 metres. Castleford at least had the consolation of a late try from Vowles.

Hull established an early advantage in the race to win promotion to the Super League when they beat Huddersfield 26-4. The win ended Huddersfield's 100 per cent record.

Oldham bear brunt of Wigan backlash

Wigan Warriors	44
Oldham Bears	10

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WIGAN Warriors will not be reading too much into this Stones Super League victory over an Oldham Bears side that did much to bring about their own heavy downfall, but, after successive home defeats by St Helens and Bradford Bulls, this was still a badly-needed win to restore fragile pride.

Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, while happy with the big win, said: "We are still on a learning curve, but we are improving week by week." With players such as Gary Connolly and Andy Farrell to guide them, the new faces in the side will not go too far wrong.

Oldham have only one win this season and their only comfort yesterday was that they provided the highspot of a dour first half — a sparkling try from Stephenson, after a high kick by Maloney was gathered by Gildart and five players combined in an intricate move that was completed by Stephenson's touchdown.

Wigan had made hard work of breaking down a resolute Bears defence and 20 minutes of battering-ram tactics came to nothing until a smart pass from Farrell sent in O'Connor for the opening try. Farrell was involved again when Johnson, the wing, scored the first of his two tries and Connolly added a third before Oldham made their own mark on the game.

Their already slim hopes of springing a surprise disappeared, however, as Wigan took control in the second half. Smith touched down almost immediately after the restart and Johnson's second try and another from Farrell, in the space of three minutes, left Oldham out of touch as their defence collapsed.

Nine minutes from the end, Connolly, the man of the match, added his second try and, with five minutes left, Murdock ran in Wigan's eighth. Oldham had the final say, a token gesture from Munro, but Maloney missed the conversion.

SCORERS: Wigan: Tries: Connolly (2), A Johnson (2), Farrell, Murdock, O'Connor, Smith. Goals: Farrell (5), Hall. Oldham: Tries: Munro, Stephenson. Goals: Maloney

WIGAN WARRIORS: J Robinson, A Johnson, G Connolly, K Radlinski, D Cardiss; T Smith, C Murdock; T O'Connor, M Cassidy, S Holgate, S Haughton, G Tallec, A Farrell. Substitutes: D Murray, N Wright, M Paul, N Cowie

OLDHAM BEARS: R Myler, A Leeuw, D Abram, H Hill, S Ranson; F Maloney, M Crompton; I Gilean, M Munro, B Goldspink, J Faimalo, G Lord, D Bradbury. Substitutes: D Stephenson, J Tenu, P Davidson, P Deacon

Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

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RACING: STOUTE KEEPS TRUMP CARD UP HIS SLEEVE AS STAKES ARE RAISED FOR 2,000 GUINEAS

Run on Entrepreneur gathers pace

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

RATHER like the dog that did not bark in the Sherlock Holmes story, the Pertemps 2,000 Guineas, in 12 days' time, is fast revolving around the horse that did not run in last week's classic trials at Newmarket and Newbury.

The victory of the Michael Stoute-trained Yalaietanee over Revoque in the Greenham Stakes on Saturday, which followed the stable's success with Desert Story in the Craven Stakes, only served to focus attention on Entrepreneur. After a recent avalanche of money, he is now 7-2 favourite with Victor Chandler and a best-priced 5-1 with Ladbrokes and the Tote.

Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes summed up the mood yesterday. "The key horse is Entrepreneur now because Michael Stoute holds all the cards. It is looking increasingly like a rerun of 1989 and the Nashwan situation where an unraced horse forces its way through, no matter what happens in the big trials."

The winter hype about Entrepreneur, who is also a clear 6-1 favourite for the Derby, received a fresh boost at the weekend when Greville Starkey, a key member of the Stoute team, was reported as saying that Desert Story would not be able to live with Entrepreneur. His view is shared privately by others within the Stoute stable.

The trainer, in ebullient mood yesterday after a most satisfactory week, is anxious to play things down. "I don't know why Greville suddenly got excited like that. He's usually quite shrewd. At the end of the day, you don't gallop top-class horses together.

"Nevertheless, I have made no secret of the fact Entrepreneur is a horse that has always excited me. He is brimful of promise." That is akin to saying Tiger Woods has the ability to win the odd golf tournament.

Michael Tabor who, along with John Magnier of Coolmore Stud, paid 600,000 guineas for the Sadler's Wells colt as a yearling, is trying not to let the excitement get to him. "We have got Deeds Not Words running at Keeneland today and he could go for the Kentucky Derby which is on the same day as the 2,000 Guineas," he said from his Monte Carlo base yesterday.

"I love the Kentucky Derby; the atmosphere is electric, but now there is all this hype about Entrepreneur. With all Michael's horses running so well it is building up into a crescendo. Michael is a true professional and doesn't want people to get carried away. He's very low key about it, but we all know he thinks he is a very good horse. Is he the best? I don't know, but somebody obviously thinks he is."

ED BYRNE

Yalaietanee, centre, gets the better of Revoque in a close finish to the Greenham Stakes at Newbury on Saturday

Robert Sangster hopes — even believes — he isn't. Revoque's owner was far from downcast after last season's top two-year-old just lost out to Yalaietanee in a driving finish on Saturday. The winner, who looked fittest of the six runners, is likely to go for the French or Irish 2,000 Guineas.

Revoque really caught the eye in the parade ring before the Newbury race but looked as though he would be better for the run. "The bookmakers should make us 8-1 and then we would go in again," Sangster, somewhat tongue in cheek, said, having taken the 11-2 on offer earlier in the week.

"Peter [Chapple-Hyam] said beforehand that Revoque would not be fully fit today and I think this race will bring him on enormously. I would like to think he will improve five or six pounds. If I was a bookmaker I would make him 3-1 favourite."

Shanikh remains the market leader with most layers. The once-raced Chesham Stakes winner is trained in Dubai by Godolphin and, like Mark Of Esteem, their 2,000 Guineas winner 12 months ago, will arrive at Newmarket days before the classic — without a run this season.

Double Thriller gives Wilkins glimpse of future

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

THERE will be life after Double Silk at Reg Wilkins's two-horse Mendip home. His seven-year-old stable-companion Double Thriller stated as much when winning the Lady Dudley Cup at the **Worcestershire** meeting on Saturday.

Double Silk elevated his owner-trainer's name to common usage in racing circles, primarily through a luckless attempt on the 1994 Grand National but also with his domination of hunt racing at that time. Age dictates that this could be the 13-year-old's last season.

It had been easy to assume that Wilkins would ride quietly out to pasture too, but Double Thriller halted those thoughts when winning the centenary of one of Britain's most prestigious point-to-points.

The form is questionable, since five-year-old Zambrano, who had been fourth in an intermediate race on his previous start, bustled up the winner and finished second, ahead of Yorkshire challenger Peanuts Pet. Yet Double Thriller was taking part in only his fifth race and looks every bit as imposing as his illustrious stable-companion. The odds-on favourite, Still In Business, ran a shocker and was beaten four fences out.

Racing's ability to offer challenges to all was neatly personified in the winner's enclosure as Wilkins, small and 70, congratulated his six-foot teenage jockey Joe Tizzard. The winning rider said: "I looked over my shoulder on the final turn in case there was anything waiting to beat me for speed, but my horse never felt like he would stop."

Ron Treloggen missed the ride, having suffered a broken wrist, but he hopes to be back in time to ride Double Silk and Double Thriller, both sons of Dubassoff, at Cheltenham's evening hunter chase meeting later this month.

Julian Pritchard is still defying the logic which suggests only a rider attached to a big yard can win a national riding championship. A double with Stag Fight and Hacketts Farm took him to 21 victories this season, four ahead of Jamie Jukes and Tim Mitchell on Saturday night.

Pip Jones made a strong surge for the women's title with a treble at the **Pentyrch**, which put her one behind Shirley Vickery and the injured Polly Curling.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

2.10 Skyers Flyer
2.40 Gunners Glory
3.10 Tymeera
3.40 General Sir Peter
4.10 Corradini
4.40 Midyan Blue
5.10 Polly Peculiar
5.40 The Deejay

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 General Sir Peter. 4.10 CORRADINI (nap). 4.40 Midyan Blue.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider B — brought down S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
SIS

2.10 OVAL SELLING STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £1,635: 6f 15yd) (11 runners)

101	(7)	1020-00	BLAZING CASTLE 17 (F) (Mrs D Wethecall) W G M Turner 9-2	R Havlin (3)	96
102	(6)	0-43624	BON GUEST 9 (T Naughton) T Naughton 8-11	Paul Eddery	91
103	(2)	55004-0	CAIRN DHU 10 (R Thorburn) Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	J Fortune	70
104	(9)	62100-0	CHARLTON SPRING 18 (D,BF,G) (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-11	S Drowne	93
105	(5)	0000-	FRANDICKBOB 123 (R Fox) J A Harris 8-11	D McKeown	–
106	(11)	5300-06	ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK 13 (B) (Treble Chance Ptns) P Evans 8-11	K Fallon	87
107	(10)	0-0	SEAMUS 18 (Duckhaven Stud) C Hill 8-11	J Quinn	–
108	(8)	50050-2	SKYERS FLYER 27 (F) (Mrs J Carney) Ronald Thompson 8-11	N Connorton	[illegible]
109	(4)	0260-0	HEAVENLY DANCER 10 (B) (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 8-6	C Rutter	80
110	(3)	03-5040	MOVE THE CLOUDS 16 (R Middleton) D Nicholls 8-6	Alex Greaves	82
111	(1)	02-5452	TERRY'S ROSE 18 (Mrs L Hunt) R Hollinshead 8-6	K Darley	90

BETTING: 3-1 Terry's Rose, 4-1 Skyers Flyer, 5-1 Blazing Castle, 7-1 Move The Clouds, 8-1 Rockaroundtheclock, Cairn Dhu, 10-1 others.

1996: THE WAD 3-8-11 J Fortune (12-1) D Nicholls 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

BON GUEST 6½l 4th of 8 to General Sir Peter in claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). CAIRN DHU 9½l 8th of 17 to Treasure Touch in handicap over course and distance (good to firm). CHARLTON SPRING 14l 8th of 15 to Burlington House in handicap at Pontefract (6f, good) penultimate start, Sep 96. ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK 10l 6th of 9 to Mon Bruce in a maiden auction at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f) penultimate start. SKYERS FLYER short head 2nd of 9 to Without Friends in seller at Newcastle (6f, good) with MOVE THE CLOUDS (5lb better off) 1¼l 4th. TERRY'S ROSE 1½l 2nd of 11 to Brave Envoy in seller at Leicester (6f, firm) with CHARLTON SPRING 8½l 7th and SEAMUS 10l 7th.
Selection: SKYERS FLYER

2.40 OVAL SELLING STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £1,635. 6f 15yd) (10 runners)

201	(10)	446400	FIT FOR THE JOB 18 (D,G) (E Weetman) T Wall 9-2	D Griffiths (3)	91
202	(2)	1320-00	GUNNERS GLORY 23 (B,F) (T Panting) B Meehan 9-2	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
203	(4)	1500-	SILVER LINING 199 (F) (Lambourn Racing Club) A Jones 9-2	S Drowne	90
204	(6)	02000-0	ANTARES 20 (J Gordon) N Tinkler 8-11	Kim Tinkler	84
205	(7)	0005	HEATHYARD'S FLIGHT 20 (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 8-11	K Darley	74
206	(1)	54-5003	HEVER GOLF STORMER 11 (Hever Racing Club I) T Naughton 8-11	Paul Eddery	85
207	(5)		HI MUJTAHID (J Bradley) J Bradley 8-11	R Ffrench (5)	–
208	(8)		JUDDY (Burntwood Sports Ltd) J A Harris 8-11	J O'Reilly	–
209	(3)	03	BELLARULA 18 (K Chapman) M Dods 8-6	S Webster	92
210	(9)	400005-	MUNICIPAL GIRL 143 (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 8-6	T Sprake	69

BETTING: 11-4 Hever Golf Stormer 3-1 Bellarula, 4-1 Gunners Glory, 8-1 Silver Lining, Hi Mujtahid, 12-1 Municipal Girl, Juddy, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

FIT FOR THE JOB 4½l 4th of 5 to VIP Charlie in a handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f) Feb 97. GUNNERS GLORY 14l 9th of 11 to Supercal in a handicap at Kempton (6f, good). SILVER LINING 11l 10th of 18 to Commander Jones in a claimer at Lingfield (6f, good). HEVER GOLF STORMER 1l 3rd of 10 to Levelled in a claimer at Folkestone (5f, good to firm). BELLARULA 1½l and neck 3rd of 11 to Brave Envoy in a seller at Leicester (6f, firm) with FIT FOR THE JOB 8½l 8th.
Selection: BELLARULA

3.10 EDGBASTON HANDICAP (£3,330: 6f 15yd) (18 runners)

301	(3)	420300-	ALMASI 198 (CD,F,G) (Equema Partnership) C Wall 5-10-0	G Duffield	91
302	(13)	5010-00	SMART GUEST 20 (B,D,G,S) (P Murphy) D Shaw 5-10-0	J Fanning	83
303	(8)	00000-0	HALMANERROR 12 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Smith) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-6	J Fortune	[illegible]
304	(10)	050000-	WELSH MOUNTAIN 180 (V,F) (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-5	J Carroll	90
305	(12)	005/0-	CREDITE RISQUE 38J (C Morris) J Glover 4-9-5	T Peaglarego (7)	–
306	(5)	51000-4	PETRACO 21 (D,F,G,S) (E Mehmet) N Smith 9-9-4	J Weaver	90
307	(6)	534200-	PADDY'S RICE 214 (D,F) (Mrs R Welman) M Blanshard 6-9-3	R Cochrane	91
308	(9)	002400-	SOUPERFICIAL 123 (V,C,D,F,G) (Mrs C Cawley) N Tinkler 6-9-3	Kim Tinkler	92
309	(14)	62000-0	TYMEERA 95 (CD,F,G) (Glenbrook Associates) B Palling 4-9-3	T Sprake	87
310	(4)	0-24436	LUNAR MUSIC 32 (F) (P Dixon) Ronald Thompson 3-8-13	T Williams	96
311	(16)	000-063	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 13 (F,G,S) (J Stephenson) R Fahey 6-8-12	A Culhane	97
312	(7)	040151	NAPOLEON STAR 21 (B,D,F,G) (R Wheatley) S Bowring 6-8-10	N Adams	98
313	(2)	3-540	MAGAZINE GAP 13 (Mrs A Sanders) Pat Mitchell 4-8-8	Amanda Sanders (5)	92
314	(11)	102305	SIR TASKER 11 (D,F,G) (J Coupland) J L Harris 9-8-7	K Darley	90
315	(15)	125352	ROBO MAGIC 17 (D,F,G) (A Green and Ptnrs) L Montague Hall 5-8-7	F Lynch (3)	96
316	(1)	30-0000	BAPTISMAL ROCK 10 (P Byrne) B Curley 3-8-6	J Quinn	–
317	(18)	005-006	AQUATIC QUEEN 13 (J Johnston) R Weaver 3-8-4	N Connorton	94
318	(17)	14550-3	GREY KINGDOM 13 (F) (M Brittain) M Brittain 6-8-2	D Mernagh (7)	89

BETTING: 11-2 Napoleon Star, 6-1 Robo Magic, 7-1 Grey Kingdom, 8-1 Halmanerror, Stephensons Rocket, 10-1 Almasi, Sir Tasker, Baptismal Rock. 12-1 others.

1996: BOLLIN HARRY 4-10-0 M Birch (13-2) T Easterby 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALMASI neck and 1l 3rd of 8 to Bee Health Boy in apprentices handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to soft), Aug 96. HALMANERROR 7l 13th of 18 to French Grit in a handicap at Ripon (6f, good to firm). PADDY'S RICE 2½l 3rd of 15 to Broughton's Turmoil in a handicap at Kempton (7f, good), Aug 96. STEPHENSON'S ROCKET 4½l 3rd of 13 to Time To Fly in a handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). NAPOLEON STAR beat Sotonian ½l in a 13-runner handicap at Warwick (5f, good to firm) with PETRACO (6lb better off) 1½l 4th. SIR TASKER 5l 5th of 16 to Summerville Wood in apprentices' handicap at Folkestone (5f, good to firm). ROBO MAGIC 2½l 2nd of 12 to Apollo Red in a handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f) with SIR TASKER (30lb better off) 11½l 9th. GREY KINGDOM 6l 3rd of 22 to Meranti in a handicap over course and distance (good to firm) with MAGAZINE GAP (4lb better off) 8l 11th.
Selection: GREY KINGDOM (nap)

3.40 LORDS CLAIMING STAKES (£2,855: 5f 13yd) (13 runners)

401	(11)	0151/01	GENERAL SIR PETER 9 (D,F,G,S) N Callaghan 5-9-8	Amanda Sanders (5)	[illegible]
402	(13)	00000/2	CAPTAIN SINBAD 9 (B) (Mrs M Bridgwater) K Bridgwater 5-9-6	S Drowne	98
403	(8)	620420	FEATHERSTONE LANE 13 (V,D,F,G) (D Parker) Miss L Siddall 6-9-6	T Siddall (7)	88
404	(7)	33280-6	SUPER ROCKY 51 (B,D,BF,F,G) (I Barker) R Bastiman 8-9-6	H Bastiman (5)	87
405	(3)	204430	DOUBLE OSCAR 4 (B,F) (Trilby Racing) D Nicholls 4-9-4	Alex Greaves	90
406	(10)	00	MAYDORO 4 (M Dods) M Dods 4-9-3	R Lappin	74
407	(4)	0-03050	SOUTHERN DOMINION 13 (D,G) (Miss J Craze) Miss J Craze 5-9-2	S Webster	70
408	(1)	0-30843	SWEET MATE 35 (B,BF,G) (S Bowring) S Bowring 5-9-0	F Boyle (7)	83
409	(6)	04255	BARWELL BOY 13 (Clearthem Ltd) J L Harris 3-8-12	K Fallon	86
410	(12)	0/0000-0	MISTER SEAN 26 (R Bailey) J Bradley 4-8-12	J Fowle (7)	–
411	(2)	50460-0	SECRET MISS 21 (D,S) (A Jones) A Jones 5-8-9	T Sprake	80
412	(9)	40000-0	CHIEF'S LADY 47 (G Fry) J Bradley 5-8-7	R Ffrench (5)	–
413	(5)	600-	MISS FUGIT PENANCE 214 (D Simpson) P Evans 3-7-13	A McCarthy (7)	–

BETTING: 6-4 General Sir Peter, 4-1 Sweet Mate, 6-1 Captain Sinbad, 8-1 Secret Miss, 10-1 Double Oscar, Super Rocky, Barwell Boy, 12-1 others.

1996: BAILEYS SUNSET 4-8-13 S Drowne (7-2) J Bradley 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

GENERAL SIR PETER beat Perfect Brave 1¾l in 8-runner Wolverhampton claimer (AW, 5f). CAPTAIN SINBAD 5l 2nd of 6 to Darb Alola in Warwick maiden (5f, good to firm). FEATHERSTONE LANE 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Little Ibnr in Wolverhampton seller (AW, 5f) with SUPER ROCKY 6¼l 6th. DOUBLE OSCAR 4½l 9th of 19 to Johayro in Ripon handicap (5f, good to firm). SWEET MATE 3l 3rd of 15 to Hoh Majestic in Southwell handicap (AW, 6f). BARWELL BOY 5½l 5th of 9 to Mon Bruce in Wolverhampton maiden (AW, 6f).
Selection: GENERAL SIR PETER

4.10 MICHELOZZO CONDITIONS STAKES (£4,401: 1m 6f 15yd) (6 runners)

501	(6)	411310-	CORRADINI 171 (D,F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 5-9-4	K Fallon	95
502	(3)	155120-	KEY TO MY HEART 135 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Pickering) Miss S Hall 7-9-4	J Weaver	[illegible]
503	(5)	2520-14	SHEER DANZIG 15 (F,G) (R Arculli) R Armstrong 5-9-4	M Hills	92
504	(2)	280440-	BLATANT OUTBURST 28J (Gilberts Animal Feed) Miss S Wilton 7-8-10	Dane O'Neill	69
505	(4)	363433-	NABHAAN 163 (F) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 4-8-8	R Cochrane	95
506	(1)	4	GET A LIFE 18 (NAJ Racing) J A Harris 4-8-3	J O'Reilly	65

BETTING: 11-8 Corradini, 9-4 Sheer Danzig, 3-1 Key To My Heart, 8-1 Nabhaan, 25-1 others.

1996: FURTHER FLIGHT 10-9-10 M Hills (2-1) B Hills 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORRADINI beat Candle Smile 1l in an 8-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good) on penultimate start Sep 96. KEY TO MY HEART 4l 2nd of 4 to Busy Flight in a listed race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) penultimate start, Oct 96. SHEER DANZIG 1l 4th of 5 to Flyway in a listed race at Longchamp (1m 4f, good). Previously beat Wilawander 6l in a 6-runner conditions race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) penultimate start. NABHAAN 2l 3rd of 22 to Clifton Fox in a handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, soft).
Selection: KEY TO MY HEART

4.40 TRENT BRIDGE HANDICAP (£3,900: 1m 6f 15yd) (14 runners)

601	(4)	6200-03	MIDYAN BLUE 23 (D,G) (K Palmer) J Eustace 7-9-13	R Cochrane	97
602	(10)	241415	DANCING CAVALIER 3 (CD,F,G) (The Three R's) R Hollinshead 4-8-11	F Lynch (3)	98
603	(12)	060203-	TEMPTRESS 171 (F,S) (P Barrett) J L Harris 4-9-5	D McKeown	93
604	(6)	0/0060-	SAMUEL SCOTT 46J (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 4-9-4	Pat Eddery	90
605	(11)	/00/0/	GYMCRAK TIGER 62J (G) (Gymcrak T'bred Racing) G Holmes 7-9-3	K Fallon	–
606	(5)	22301-0	ARCADY 11 (F,G) (J Henderson) J L Harris 4-9-3	Paul Eddery	90
607	(14)	0/8184-0	JUMP THE LIGHTS 25 (G) (R Crawley) S Woods 4-8-13	K Darley	90
608	(2)	11021-4	REAGANESQUE 21J (F) (Mrs J Spalman) P Murphy 5-8-10	S Drowne	97
609	(9)	000-	BEAUCHAMP KNIGHT 277 (E Penser) H Candy 4-8-10	C Rutter	91
610	(3)	40-5142	ROAD RACER 10 (BF,G) (J Sellers) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-6	J Fortune	98
611	(1)	21-2305	HEIGHTH OF FAME 11 (G) (W Mackenzie/J Evans) J Hetherton 6-8-7	J Weaver	[illegible]
612	(7)	026-313	MOONRAKING 19 (G) (R Hoiles) T Etherington 4-8-4	Dane O'Neill	97
613	(13)	503140-	THE BUTTERWICK KID 166J (G) (R Chambers) R Fahey 4-6-0	R Winston (7)	95
614	(8)	00/231/	KINTAVI 38J (F) (S Taberner) T Donnelly 7-7-10	J Quinn	–

BETTING: 4-1 Dancing Cavalier, 5-1 Midyan Blue, 6-1 Road Racer, 7-1 Heighth Of Fame 5-1 Moonraking, Temptress, 10-1 Reaganesque, 12-1 others

1996: FABILLION 4-8-9 C Rutter (7-1) C Smith 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

MIDYAN BLUE 6¾l 3rd of 9 to Sugar Mill in a handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, soft). DANCING CAVALIER beat ROAD RACER (5lb better off) 4l in a 12-runner handicap over course and distance (good to firm) penultimate start. TEMPTRESS ½l 3rd of 17 to Silverelta in Newmarket handicap (1m 4f, good). BEAUCHAMP KNIGHT 18l 7th of 13 to Palamon in a maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm). MOONRAKING neck and 5l 3rd of 14 to Manful in Hamilton handicap (1m 3f, soft). THE BUTTERWICK KID 5¼l 4th of 20 to Sweetness Herself in Haydock apprentices handicap (1m 6f, soft) penultimate start (1m 6f, soft) Oct 96
Selection: MIDYAN BLUE

5.10 NOTTINGHAM LADY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,277: 1m 1f 213yd) (18 runners)

1	(6)	0-14041	FRESH FRUIT DAILY 11 (D,F,G) (K Hudson) P Kelleway 5-11-7	Miss S Kelleway (4)	98
2	(13)	0411-35	SEATTLE ALLEY 21J (D,F) (L & P Ptnrs) P Webber 4-11-5	Mrs F Webber (7)	87
3	(11)	0065-40	GOLD BLADE 32 (CD,F,G) (A Old) J Pearce 8-11-5	Mrs L Pearce	91
4	(10)	4/00/6/	TALES OF HEARSAY 33J (S) C Jackson 7-11-4	Miss S Jackson (7)	–
5	(17)	6000-00	MYBOTYE 16 (F,G) (A Moroney) R Bastiman 4-11-3	Miss R Bastiman (7)	96
6	(3)	161-225	RASAYEL 86 (D,F,G) (Pentons Haulage) P Evans 7-11-2	Miss K Chilton (7)	92
7	(9)	116134-	POLLY PECULIAR 146 (C,D,F,G,S) B Smart 6-11-2	Miss V Marshall (4)	[illegible]
8	(1)	003322-	MASTER MILLFIELD 153 (F,G) (C Hill) C Hill 5-11-1	Mrs S Bosley	98
9	(16)	6500-50	FOURDANED 20 (BF) (Foursquare) P Harris 4-11-0	Miss A Elsey	98
10	(12)	00/0-	ALFAHAAL 352 (C Sumner) R J Houghton 4-10-11	Miss E Johnson Houghton	–
11	(14)	0/32310-	NORTH BEAR 185J (F) (Royce/Cochrane) G McCourt 5-10-4	Miss M O'Sullivan (7)	91
12	(5)	03-6	MAC'S DELIGHT 21 (Internet Racing) N Babbage 3-10-1	Mrs D Kettlewell	95
13	(2)	12100-0	MEZZORAMIO 13 (V,F,G) (T Pryke) K Morgan 5-9-13	Mrs C Williams (4)	95
14	(4)	20050-0	SQUARED AWAY 32 (B,F) (Mrs E Lake) J Payne 5-9-12	Miss C Lake (4)	93
15	(15)	560601-	EPIC STAND 167 (F) (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-8	Miss E Ramsden (4)	93
16	(7)	003040-	BREEZED WELL 199 (F,G) (Mrs Noonan) K Wingrove 11-9-8	Mrs H Noonan (4)	90
17	(18)	0/00300-	BLAZE OF OAK 155J (E Hayward) J Bradley 6-9-8	Miss V Roberts (4)	98
18	(8)	46-0000	COHIBA 10 (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-9-8	Miss A Broderick (4)	91

BETTING: 5-1 Gold Blade, 6-1 Fresh Fruit Daily, Epic Stand, 7-1 Master Millfield, 8-1 Rasayel, 10-1 others

1996: GOLD BLADE 7-10-1 Mrs L Pearce (5-1) J Pearce 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

FRESH FRUIT DAILY beat Dauphin 3l in a 13-runner handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, firm). SEATTLE ALLEY 5½l 5th of 10 to Punkah in a handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). POLLY PECULIAR 3¾l 3rd of 21 to Mels Baby in a lady riders' handicap at Doncaster (1m, soft) on penultimate start with MYBOTYE (9lb better off) 8½l 10th. FOURDANED about 11l 5th of 20 to Break The Rules in a lady riders' handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm) on penultimate start with GOLD BLADE (1lb worse off) 5l 7th. SQUARED AWAY (4lb better off) 1l 9th. COHIBA (7lb better off) 5l 16th and MYBOTYE (7lb better off) 14l 19th. EPIC STAND beat Double Espresso 1l in an 18-runner handicap at Redcar (1m, good to firm)
Selection: EPIC STAND

5.40 HEADINGLEY STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,044: 1m 1f 213yd) (10 runners)

1	(9)	005-1	FREEDOM CHANCE 21 (C,F) (J Hawkes and Ptnrs) J Hills 8-13	M Henry (3)	98
2	(10)	63621	WEET AND SEE 23 (G) (Ed Weetman Ltd) R Hollinshead 8-13	D Griffiths (3)	93
3	(8)	02-0423	AROUND FORE ALLISS 17 (J Humphreys Ltd) T Mills 8-11	K Darley	90
4	(2)	001060-	IMPERIAL OR METRIC 170 (F) (Clayton Bigley Ptnrs) R Fahey 8-11	A Culhane	93
5	(5)	05-220	MOGUL 32 (Silver and Blue Racing Club) N Graham 8-11	A McGlone	92
6	(7)	64-40	NOIRIE 12 (Miss D Woods) M Brittain 8-11	J Carroll	91
7	(6)	13006-3	THE DEEJAY 32 (F) (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 8-11	J Fortune	96
8	(3)	1	DOMINANT DUCHESS 21 (F) (C Nelson) J Hills 8-10	K Fallon	95
9	(4)	340-	LADY OF THE LAKE 189 (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) J Dunlop 8-8	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
10	(1)	6062-0	SWAN ISLAND 21 (K Baron) B Palling 8-8	T Sprake	93

BETTING: 3-1 Freedom Chance, 7-2 Dominant Duchess, 9-2 Weet And See, 6-1 Mogul, 7-1 others

1996: DOCKLANDS LIMO 3-8-13 K Darley (6-1) B McMath 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

FREEDOM CHANCE beat Pennywell 1l in 18-runner handicap here (1m, good to firm) with SWAN ISLAND (7lb better off) 11th. WEET AND SEE beat Mutahadeth 1½l in 10-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m). THE DEEJAY 3¼l 3rd of 16 to Miracle Kid in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm) with MOGUL (9lb better off) 10l 9th. DOMINANT DUCHESS beat As-Is 1¾l in 6-runner Warwick claimer (1m 4f, good to firm)
Selection: DOMINANT DUCHESS

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER

2.00 Mister Bankes. 2.30 Nervous Rex. 3.00 Barbason. 3.30 English Invader. 4.00 Ghayyur. 4.30 Ki Chi Saga. 5.00 SONGSHEET (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 ENGLISH INVADER.

GOING: FIRM
SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 SIDNEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,277: 5f) (8 runners)

1	(7)	21	MISTER BANKES 19 (D,S) W Turner 9-4	D Sweeney (5)	[illegible]
2	(6)	011	BARNINGHAM BLADE 10 (CD,F) K Ivory 8-13	M Dwyer (3)	98
3	(8)		FIVEO'CLOCK SHADOW B Meehan 8-12	R Hughes	–
4	(4)		TALAHEART C Allen 8-7	G Hind	–
5	(5)	221	HEAVENLY ABSTONE 7 (V,D,F) P Evans 8-5	J F Egan	97
6	(2)		KATIES TREAT B Pearce 8-4	D R McCabe	–
7	(3)	0	SHANNON 26 C Dwyer 8-4	D O'Donohoe (3)	71
8	(1)	3	SOFT TOUCH 10 Miss G Kelleway 8-4	S Sanders	84

7-4 Mister Bankes, 4-1 Heavenly Abstone 5-1 Barningham Blade, 8-1 others.

2.30 ORLEANS LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O. £2,277: 5f 213yd) (6)

1	(2)	4-45	NERVOUS REX 10 W Muir 8-11	J Reid	96
2	(3)	0022	SUITE FACTORS 9 (F) K Burke 8-11	R Perham	95
3	(1)	34-6	HEVER GOLF MOVER 87 T Naughton 8-8	S Sanders	[illegible]
4	(5)	0-04	JUKEBOX JIVE 11 C Dwyer 8-8	Jo Hunnam (7)	95
5	(4)	60-0	NAMPARA BAY 26 G Bravery 8-6	M Rimmer	–
6	(6)	4405	WHIZZ KID 11 (F) J Bridger 8-8	R Mullen (5)	89

7-4 Suite Factors 11-4 Nervous Rex. Hever Golf Mover, Whizz Kid, 9-1 others.

3.00 OLD STEINE HANDICAP (£3,805: 7f) (8)

1	(3)	10-0	NEUWEST 30 (D,F) N Walker 5-10-0	R Hughes	93
2	(2)	220-	KINGS HARMONY 122 (CD,F,G) P Makin 4-9-4	S Sanders	90
3	(7)	2412	ERTLON 17 (CD,BF,F,G) C Brittain 7-9-2	B Doyle	97
4	(1)	510-	REGAL SPLENDOUR 30J (G) R O'Sullivan 4-8-11	D Harrison	98
5	(5)	1111	BARBASON 17 (D,F,G) G L Moore 5-8-5	Candy Morris	[illegible]
6	(6)	2010	ASTRAL INVADER 11 (V,D,F,S) M Saunders 5-8-1	J Egan	98
7	(4)	0-00	PENLOP 21 (B,BF) B Meehan 3-8-0	Martin Dwyer (3)	87
8	(8)	000-	JAAZIM 131 (D,G) M Madgwick 7-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	93

2-1 Barbason 3-1 Ertlon, 9-2 Neuwest, Kings Harmony, 8-1 Penlop, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 20 winners from 83 runners, 24.1%; J Dunlop, 11 from 51, 21.6%; Miss G Kelleway, 9 from 45, 20.0%; W Muir, 8 from 42, 19.0%; P Evans, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: D R McCabe, 3 winners from 15 rides, 20.0%; S Sanders, 14 from 78, 17.9%; R Hughes, 10 from 56, 17.9%; M Rimmer, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J D Smith, 4 from 25, 16.0%

3.30 ROYAL PAVILION CLAIMING STAKES (£2,277: 1m 3f 196yd) (8)

1	(6)	1140	ENGLISH INVADER 5 (D,G,S) C Dwyer 6-9-2	G Faulkner (5)	[illegible]
2	(1)	0/0	FRIAR'S OAK 11 P Butler 5-9-0	D Sweeney (5)	–
3	(3)	6003	PETOSKIN 12 (F,G,S) J Pearce 5-8-12	M Wigham	90
4	(2)	0166	ROMAN REEL 11 (C,F,G) G L Moore 6-8-12	S Whitworth	93
5	(5)	-463	VENICE BEACH 23 C Brooks 5-8-10	J D Smith (3)	91
6	(4)	3432	BEDOUIN PRINCE 16 (D,G) Mrs L Stubbs 10-8-8	S Sanders	91
7	(8)	500-	MISS PRAVDA 140J (F) B Llewellyn 4-8-3	J Bramhill (5)	81
8	(7)	6503	EFFICACIOUS 25 P Eccles 4-8-0	J F Egan	87

2-1 English Invader 11-4 Roman Reel 3-1 Venice Beach 5-1 Petoskin, 8-1 Bedouin Prince, 10-1 Efficacious, 12-1 others

4.00 CONFLANS MAIDEN STAKES (£3,455: 1m) (4)

1	(3)		POLISH SWINGER Miss G Kelleway 4-9-11	W J O'Connor	–
2	(2)		MYSTIC STRAND W G M Turner 4-9-6	D Sweeney (5)	–
3	(4)	35-	MOON BLAST 250 Lady Herries 3-8-11	J Reid	83
4	(1)	252-	GHAYYUR 240 J Dunlop 3-8-6	R Hills	[illegible]

8-13 Ghayyur, 2-1 Moon Blast, 6-1 Polish Swinger, 14-1 Mystic Strand

4.30 TOWN PURSE HANDICAP (£3,044: 1m) (15)

1	(13)	020-	ALSAHIB 48J W Muir 4-10-0	J Reid	92
2	(2)	200-	CONFRONTER 75 (CD,G,S) S Dow 8-9-11	R Hughes	92
3	(4)	-400	CZARNA 39 (S) C Brittain 6-9-10	B Doyle	96
4	(14)	00-0	DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 103 (V,D,G) M Bell 4-9-10	G Faulkner (5)	90
5	(11)	0142	KI CHI SAGA 25 (D,BF,G,S) M Madgwick 5-9-7	D Holland	[illegible]
6	(10)	00-6	SAFEY ANA 18 (F,G) B Hanbury 6-9-6	W Ryan	91
7	(12)	/40-	ANOTHER FIDDLE 70J (F) J Long 7-9-1	D Harrison	–
8	(3)	60-0	WHISPERED MELODY 21 R Akehurst 4-9-0	S Sanders	93
9	(8)	00-5	PEARL DAWN 10 (CD,F,G) P Clarke 7-9-0	T Field (7)	97
10	(15)	6024	FLAGSTAFF 47 K Burke 4-8-13	P Wright (7)	90
11	(5)	40P-	CARLYS QUEST 195 J Neville 3-8-7	A Clark	–
12	(9)	5-05	SWEET OISEAUX 21 (B,F) B Llewellyn 4-8-6	J Bramhill (5)	90
13	(6)	00-6	ROCKY WATERS 25 (F,G) M Usher 8-8-6	D R McCabe	95
14	(7)	-060	SHAYNES DOMAIN 58 (B,G) R Flower 6-8-3	G Hind	84
15	(1)	4240	ILANDRA 21J G L Moore 5-8-1	Martin Dwyer (3)	91

11-2 Alsahib, 6-1 Safey Ana, 7-1 Confronter 10-1 Czarna, Ilandra, 12-1 others

5.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£2,862: 5f 59yd) (8)

1	(8)	-044	SHARP PEARL 10 (B,CD,F) J White 4-10-0	R Hughes	90
2	(7)	-100	PRINCELY SOUND 25 (D,G) M Bell 4-9-10	M Fenton	98
3	(1)	6-02	SONGSHEET 11 (D,G) M Saunders 4-9-6	R Perham	95
4	(5)	1030	TACHYCARDIA 17 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 5-8-4	D Harrison	90
5	(2)	-205	COME TOO MAMMA'S 86 (D,G) G Bravery 3-8-3	D R McCabe	95
6	(6)	6050	MISTER RAIDER 11 (B,D,G) E Wheeler 5-8-2	A Daly (5)	90
7	(4)	5302	JUSTINIANUS 10 (D,G,S) J Bridger 5-8-0	R Mullen (5)	[illegible]
8	(3)	0050	BRIGHT PARAGON 58 (D,F,G,S) K Ivory 8-7-10	Martin Dwyer (3)	83

11-4 Princely Sound, 3-1 Sharp Pearl, 9-2 Songsheet, Justinianus 8-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Brighton: 3.00 Penlop Nottingham: 2.10 Heavenly Dancer, Rockaroundtheclock. 2.40 Gunners Glory Towcester: 2.20 Noquita. 3.20 Carly-J. 4.50 Antarticterm.

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Boy Blakeney. 2.50 Who Is Equiname. 3.20 Hancock. 3.50 Supposin. 4.20 Parliamentarian. 4.50 Antiguan Flyer.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
SIS

2.20 ROADE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,951: 2m) (13 runners)

1	0-61	NAUTICAL JEWEL 16 (F) K Wingrove 5-11-7	J Power (7)
2	40-0	BUSTER 40 Mrs B Waring 9-11-0	E Byrne
3	P/U	INCHYDONEY BOY 11 T McGovern 8-11-0	J F Titley
4		INISHMANN 468F A Jones 6-11-0	C Llewellyn
5	PP33	MHEANMETOO 32 D Williams 6-11-0	Mr S Durack (7)
6	03	NICKY WILDE 70 C Brooks 7-11-0	G Bradley
7	0P0	NOQUITA 37 (B) J McConnochie 10-11-0	X Aizpuru (5)
8	/0	OUR EDDIE 21 (B) K Wingrove 8-11-0	K Gaule
9	006	TATIBAG 16 R Smith 5-11-0	Mr J Goldstein (7)
10	U6P5	TUG YOUR FORELOCK 11 G J-Houghton 5-11-0	A Thornton
11	46-P	WHATASHOT 21 D McCain 7-11-0	D Walsh
12	2053	BOY BLAKENEY 33 (BF) Mrs S Smith 4-10-8	R Guest
13	3042	PAULTON 21 (B) K Bishop 4-10-8	A P McCoy

9-4 Nicky Wilde. 7-2 Boy Blakeney, Nautical Jewel, 8-1 Paulton, 9-1 others

2.50 MILTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,560: 2m 6f) (9)

1	55-1	SORCIERE 19 (F) G Balding 6-11-4	B Clifford
2	-02P	CHIAPPUCCI 7 (G,S) Mrs E Heath 7-11-2	D Gallagher
3	600P	DERRYS PREROGATIVE 65 A Carroll 7-11-2	D Walsh
4	5U22	FULL SHILLING 12 D Williams 8-11-2	Mr S Durack (7)
5	FPPP	SAUSALITO BOY 67 (F,S) R Smith 9-11-2	C Maude
6	-002	SIDE BAR 21 (V,F) P Mooney 7-11-2	D J Kavanagh (5)
7	0BF0	SMART CASANOVA 55 M Wilkinson 8-11-2	W Marston
8	3500	VOLLEYBALL 33 P Hedger 8-11-2	M Richards
9	4332	WHO IS EQUINAME 26 (B,S) N Henderson 7-11-2	M A Fitzgerald

4-5 Who Is Equiname, 5-2 Sorciere, 8-1 Full Shilling, 12-1 Volleyball, 16-1 Chiappucci, Smart Casanova, 20-1 others

3.20 FLORE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,133: 2m 5f) (13)

1	0414	SHARP COMMAND 2 (D,F) P Eccles 4-12-0	X Aizpuru (5)
2	0403	BOB'S PLOY 33 M Tompkins 5-11-8	R Guest
3	5-04	AN SPAILPIN FANACH 21 (B) D Gandolfo 8-11-7	R Dunwoody
4	F234	HANCOCK 21 J Hetherton 5-11-3	A P McCoy
5	5035	WORTHY MEMORIES 20 Mrs M Jones 8-10-10	D Byrne
6	080	SUPREMO 58 M Wilkinson 8-10-8	W Marston
7	P004	CARLY-J 27 (B) F Jackson 6-10-7	Mr N Kent
8	2001	POLO PONY 20 (F) J R Upson 5-10-7	J Supple
9	5-P1	BOWDEN SURPRISE 21 (F) R Baker 7-10-5	V Slattery
10	0460	MILLERS GOLDENGIRL 7 Mrs S Smith 6-10-0	G F Ryan (5)
11	UF05	BEKIJI 11 (B) T Casey 5-10-0	J A McCarthy
12	3080	ECU DE FRANCE 12 (V) P Ritchens 7-10-0	S Fox
13	PRR0	SWIFT POKEY 21 D Williams 7-10-0	Mr S Durack (7)

7-2 Sharp Command, 9-2 Bob's Ploy, 7-1 Hancock, 8-1 An Spailpin Fanach, Carly-J. 9-1 Polo Pony. 10-1 Worthy Memories, 12-1 others

3.50 TORT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,137: 3m 1f) (10)

1	5113	JIM VALENTINE 165 (CD,BF,F,S) D Wintle 11-11-10	W Marston
2	-P52	POSTMAN'S PATH 23 (C,G,S) T Forster 11-11-9	J Osborne
3	1312	ROYAL SAXON 9 (D,F,G,S) P Bowen 11-11-3	R Johnson
4	4P00	SUPPOSIN 23 (F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-10	R Guest
5	5632	LAY IT OFF 21 (F,S) J O'Neill 8-10-7	S Curran
6	2U33	REAPERS ROCK 21 (B,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-4	G F Ryan (5)
7	P451	DREAM LEADER 21 (D,F,G) M Roberts 7-10-4	J Railton
8	3615	FURRY FOX 53 (F,G,S) R Curtis 9-10-3	D Morris
9	1PP0	WOODLANDS GENHIRE 21 (B,CD,F) P Pritchard 12-10-2	C Llewellyn
10	32/	MISCHIEVOUS GIRL 693 (F) R Tate 9-10-0	Mrs F Needham

3-1 Postman's Path, 9-2 Jim Valentine, 6-1 Royal Saxon Reapers Rock, Dream Leader, 7-1 Lay It Off, 8-1 Furry Fox, 10-1 others

4.20 DUSTON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,001: 2m 110yd) (11)

1	0512	THE CARROT MAN 27 (D,BF,F,G) P Winkworth 9-12-0	P Hide
2	1623	ARTIC WINGS 23 (BF,F,G,S) O Brennan 9-11-12	M Brennan
3	3-P1	NADJATI 305 (B,F) D Gandolfo 8-11-9	R Dunwoody
4	4PP1	MONKS JAY 19 (CD,F,G) G Thorner 8-11-0	C Maude
5	F111	MR SNAGGLE 19 (CD,F,G,S) S Earle 8-10-10	R Johnson
6	P152	PARLIAMENTARIAN 23 (B,G) T Casey 8-10-0	J Osborne
7	4034	COUNT BARACHOIS 7 (CD,F,S) Mrs E Heath 9-10-0	D Gallagher
8	312P	CRACKLING FROST 151 (F) Mrs D Haine 9-10-0	Mr R Wakley (7)
9	463F	NAUTICAL GEORGE 21 J Upson 7-10-0	J Supple
10	PP55	YOUNG ALFIE 9 (B,CD,F,S) J Panvert 12-10-0	C Llewellyn
11	66PP	HUGH DANIELS 90 (G) C Hemsley 9-10-0	S Curran

11-4 Monks Jay, 7-2 Mr Snaggle, 5-1 Artic Wings, 6-1 Nadjati 7-1 The Carrot Man, 10-1 Crackling Frost, 14-1 others.

4.50 NOBOTTLE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,035: 2m) (10)

1	021	SURANOM 28 (D,F) Mrs D Haine 5-11-10	J F Titley
2	-U63	STEVE FORD 23 (D,G) C Morlock 8-11-6	J A McCarthy
3	0132	VA UTU 16 (D,F,G) D Lloyd 9-11-2	Sophie Mitchell (3)
4	PP44	EUROLINK THE REBEL 21 (F) S Clark 5-10-12	Miss R Clark (7)
5	0012	ANTIGUAN FLYER 21 (V,D,G) G Prodromou 8-10-10	A P McCoy
6	3006	JEWEL THIEF 16 (V,D,F) G Balding 7-10-8	Mr E Babington (7)
7	4030	POSITIVO 23 Miss C Caroe 6-10-5	D Leahy
8	530R	ANTARTICTERN 12F (V) G Oldroyd 7-10-3	G Cahill
9	-FPP	BIRTHPLACE 48 (CD,S) R Tate 7-10-0	D J Kavanagh (5)
10	PP00	BALLY WONDER 7 Mrs E Heath 5-10-0	J Supple

7-4 Suranom, 4-1 Va Utu, 9-2 Steve Ford, 8-1 Antiguan Flyer, 10-1 Eurolink The Rebel, Positivo, 12-1 Jewel Thief 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TOWCESTER. Trainers: R Curtis, 6 winners from 19 runners, 31.6%; Mrs M Jones, 4 from 13, 30.8%; P Ritchens, 3 from 14, 21.4%; C Brooks, 7 from 37, 18.9%. Jockeys: D Morris, 6 winners from 17 rides, 35.3%; R Dunwoody, 16 from 72, 22.2%; Martin Brennan, 22 from 104, 21.2%; D Byrne, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

NOTTINGHAM: Trainers: N Babbage, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; H Cecil, 16 from 60, 26.7%; D Nicholls, 4 from 19, 21.1%; J Dunlop, 18 from 103, 17.5%. Jockeys: Pat Eddery, 19 winners from 82 rides, 23.2%; M Hills, 13 from 77, 16.9%; Paul Eddery, 12 from 73, 16.4%; S Webster, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

POINT-TO-POINT DETAILS

BEDALE & WEST OF YORE (Hornby Castle): Confined 1, Hurricane Linda (S Walker, 3-1); 2, Chapel Island; 3, Flying Lion. 9 ran. Rest 1, Danegeld (N Smith, 4-1); 2, Joint Account; 3, Dear Emily. 14 ran. Ladies 1, Indie Rock (Mrs F Needham, 5-2); 2, Carole's Delight; 3, Cheeky Pot. 7 ran. Land Rover Mens Open 1, Grey Realm (N Smith, 11-10 fav); 2, Osgathorpe; 3, Fast Study. 5 ran. Hunt 1, Castle Tyrant (G Tuer, Evens fav); 2, Douce Indienne; 3, Level Vibes. 6 ran. Open Mdn I 1, Goodheavens Mrtony (Miss A Deniel, 5-1); 2, Silly Tinker; 3, Hard To Break. 11 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Last Option (Mrs F Needham, 7-1); 2, Japodene; 3, Look Sharpe. 10 ran

DARTMOOR (Flete Park): Hunt 1, The General's Drum (K Heard, 1-4 fav); 2, Rosa's Revenge. 2 ran. Rest 1 Valley's Choice (L Jefford, 8-1); 2, Penguin; 3, Probation. 14 ran. Men's Open 1, Nearly Splendid (T Greed, 5-2 Jt fav); 2, First Design; 3, Thegoose. 9 ran. Ladies 1, Khattal (Miss J Cumings, 2-5 fav); 2, Try It Alone; 3, Midnight Bob. 9 ran. Confined 1, Catch The Cross (Mrs M Hand, 11-2); 2, It's Not My Fault; 3, Christmas Hols. 5 ran. Maiden 1, Esene De Cores (N Harris, 5-2); 2, Amazing Hill; 3, The Ugly Duckling. 13 ran

ESSEX & SUFFOLK (Higham): Hunt 1, Druid's Lodge (C Ward-Thomas, 1-5 fav); 2, Rhu Na Haven, only 2 finished. 3 ran. Rest 1 Red Channel (A Hickman, 2-1); 2, New York Boy; 3, Aughnacloy Rose. 5 ran. Men's Open 1, Cracking Idea (C Ward-Thomas, 4-5 fav); 2, Salmon Mead; 3, St Laycar. 4 ran. Ladies 1, St Gregory (Mrs L Gibbon, 1-5 fav); 2, Waterloo Andy, only 2 finished. 2 ran. Confined 1, Youcat (I Marsh, 6-4 Jt fav); 2, Shake Five; 3, Notary-Nowell. 5 ran. Open Mdn 1, Mutual Memories (S R Andrews, 5-1); 2, A Right Set Two; only 2 finished. 9 ran

HOLCOMBE HARRIERS (Whittington): Hunt 1, Admiral Byng (Miss D Hawkes, 2-1 fav); 2, Pride Of Erin; 3, Bob. 5 ran. Intermediate 1, Royle Burchlin (D Barlow, 2-11 fav); 2, Bunny Hare; only 2 finished. 2 ran. Confined 1, Tattlejack (Mrs C Ford, 2-5 fav); 2, Barkin; 3, Shul Saor. 4 ran. Ladies 1, Hornblower (Mrs C Ford, 1-2 fav); 2, Lupy Minstrel; only 2 finished. 3 ran. Men's Open 1, Mr Tittle Tattle (D Barlow, 13-8 fav); 2, Boreen Owen; 3, Freddie Fox. 4 ran. Open Maiden 1, Who Doctored Who (M Worthington, 7-2); 2, Builder Boy. 2 ran.

OLD SURREY & BURSTOW (Penshurst): Hunt 1, Daddy Long Leggs (R Hubbard, 9-4); 2, Topping-The-Bill; only 2 finished. 3 ran. Confined 1, American Eyre (Miss S Gladders, 3-1 Jt fav); 2, Vultoro; 3, Yeoman Farmer. 6 ran. Men's Open 1, Rustic Ramble (P Hacking, 13-8 fav); 2, Bawnerosh; 3, Paco's Boy. 7 ran. Ladies 1, Polar Ana (Miss S Gladders, 6-4 Jt fav); 2, Woody Will; 3, Slight Panic. 8 ran. Rest 1, Harmony River (Miss C Holliday, 4-1); 2, King Of The Clouds; 3, Celtic Reg. 6 ran. Open Mdn 1, Ishma (D Page, Evens fav); 2, Linger Balinda; 3, Miss Pandy. 5 ran.

PENTYRCH (Bonvilston): Hunt 1, Box Of Delights (E Williams, 5-2 Jt fav); 2, Kristal Haze; 3, Adanac. 6 ran. Confined: 1, Conna Moss (Miss P Jones, 5-4 fav); 2, Savage Oak; 3, Gold Diver. 9 ran. Intermediate 1, Gunner Boon (Miss P Jones, 5-4 fav); 2, Bit Of A Citizen; 3, Polly Pringle. 8 ran. Mixed Open 1, Carrick Lanes (Miss P Jones, 7-2); 2, Archer; 3, Rusty Music. 10 ran. Rest 1, Cathgal (Miss C Thomas, 5-1); 2, Dragons Lady; 3, Black Ermine. 14 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Mister Jay Day (A Price, 5-1); 2, Good Boy Fred; 3, Wilton Park. 15 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Khandys Slave (J Jukes, 3-1 Jt fav); 2, Mr Ffitch; 3, Underwychwood. 13 ran. Open Mdn (Div III). 1, Bushton (J P Keen, 6-1); 2, Malthouse Lad; 3, Final Option. 9 ran.

SOUTH & WEST WILTS (Larkhill): Hunt 1, Feltham Mistress (E Babington, 7-4); 2, Mountain-Linnet. 2 ran. Open Mdn: 1, Camella (Miss A Goschen); finished alone. Ladies 1, Rapid Rascal (Miss S West, 6-4 fav); 2, Nanda Moon; 3, Lavalight. 4 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Indian Knight (M Miller, 2-5 fav); 2, Miss Magic; only 2 finished. 3 ran. BFSS (Nov Riders): 1, Cruise Free (L Manners, 5-4), finished alone. 2 ran. Rest 1, Spar Copse (Miss A Goschen, 4-5 fav); 2, John Roger; only 2 finished. 3 ran.

WORCESTERSHIRE (Chaddesley Corbett): Hunt 1, Stag Fight (Julian Pritchard, 2-5 fav); 2, Mr Dennehy; 3, Manard. 6 ran. Confined: 1, Hackett's Farm (Julian Pritchard, 11-10 fav); 2, Sudanor; 3, Hook Line'N'sinker. 6 ran. Open 1, Double Thriller (J Tizzard, 5-1); 2, Zambrano; 3, Peanuts Pet. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Andros Gale (Mrs A Rucker, 16-1); 2, Mister Gebo; 3, Fosbury. 5 ran. Rest 1, Glitterbird (A Dalton, 5-1); 2, Whitmore; 3, Damers Treasure. 6 ran. Open Mdn I 1, Trevveethan (M Rimell, 5-4 fav); 2, Ribington; only 2 finished. 7 ran. Open Mdn II 1, Zodiac Prince (M Harris, Evens fav); 2, Rejects Reply; only 2 finished. 5 ran

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

2.00 1, Rockforce (25-1); 2, Virtual Reality (25-1); 3, Ashby Hill (12-1); 4, Punkah (33-1). Hardy Dancer 5-1 fav. 22 ran.

2.30 1, Whitewater Affair (20-1); 2, Ela-Aristokrati (10-1); 3, Futta (11-2). Salmon Ladder 5-2 fav. 13 ran.

3.00 1, Yalaietanee (5-1. Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Revoque (11-8 fav); 3, Muchea (11-1). 6 ran.

3.30 1, Hawksley Hill (5-1 fav); 2, Lonely Leader (33-1); 3, Sarlan (25-1); 4, Almond Rock (25-1). 19 ran. NR: Maralinga.

4.00 1, Supreme Angel (33-1); 2, Anan Da (13-2); 3, Chrysalis (3-1 jt-fav). Ring The Rafters 3-1 jt-fav. 12 ran

4.30 1, Rashik (12-1); 2, Alazal (13-2); 3, Greek Palace (10-3 fav). 15 ran. NR: Bogorral, Blewbury Hill

5.00 1, Royal Amaretto (4-1: Richard Evans's nap); 2, Falak (10-1); 3, King Sound (3-1). Sophomore 11-4 fav. 10 ran.

5.30 1, Mamalik (8-11 fav); 2, Rainwatch (6-1); 3, Mystic Ridge (12-1). 15 ran. NR: Teme Valley.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £47,332.98 carried forward to Nottingham today).

Thirsk

2.20 1, Diamond Steve (4-1 jt-fav); 2, Ellenbrook (9-2); 3, My Bet (5-1). 12 ran

2.50 1, Surprise Mission (9-4 fav); 2, Ziggy's Dancer (16-1); 3, For The Present (20-1); 4, Squire Corrie (20-1). 20 ran. NR: Lady Sheriff

3.20 1, Soviet State (5-1); 2, Cretan Gift (16-1); 3, Venture Capitalist (15-8 fav). 8 ran

3.50 1, Desert Fighter (4-1); 2, Fairy Knight (6-1); 3, Lookingforarainbow (100-30 fav). 8 ran.

4.20 1, Starborough (4-5 fav); 2, Intikhab (7-4); 3, Caviar Royale (7-1). 3 ran

4.50 1, Star Of Ring (7-2 fav); 2, Serape (25-1); 3, In Good Nick (9-2). 11 ran

5.20 1, Angel Face (7-1); 2, Blessed Spirit (5-1 fav); 3, Best of All (9-1). 15 ran

Ayr

1.55 1, Shu Gaa (3-1 fav); 2, Meltemison (10-1); 3, Clash Of Swords (12-1). 7 ran.

2.25 1, House Captain (20-1); 2, Sheriffmuir (7-1); 3, Tullymurry Toff (11-4 jt-fav). Celestial Choir 11-4 jt-fav. 11 ran

2.55 1, Sparky Gayle (8-15 fav); 2, Macgeorge (8-1); 3, Stately Home (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Sound Statement.

3.25 1, Shadow Leader (Evens fav); 2, Zabadi (14-1); 3, Edelweis Du Moulin (10-1). 11 ran

4.05 1, Belmont King (16-1); 2, Samlee (8-1); 3, Baronet (11-1); 4, Act The Wag (15-2). Sister Stephanie 4-1 fav (ur). 17 ran. NR: Off The Bru

4.40 1, Monyman (11-2); 2, Mister Oddy (7-1); 3, Weaver George (11-2). No Pain No Gain 5-1 fav. 9 ran.

5.10 1, Kings Measure (25-1); 2, Siren Song (9-1); 3, Simons Castle (7-1). Samuel Wilderspin 6-4 fav. 20 ran

5.40 1, Decoupage (3-1 fav); 2, Go Native (6-1); 3, Valhalla (12-1). 20 ran.

Bangor

2.10 1, Special Beat (11-1); 2, Cherokee Chief (11-10 fav); 3, Ring Of Vision (7-2). 18 ran

2.40 1, My Nominee (8-13 fav); 2, Dalametre (8-1); 3, Saahi (25-1). 11 ran.

3.10 1, Indian Jockey (2-5 fav); 2, Exemplar (4-1); 3, The Secret Grey (20-1). 5 ran. NR: Steel Gold.

3.45 1, First Crack (6-1); 2, Denning Bridge (25-1); 3, Hooded Hawk (6-1); 4, Sharp Command (2-1 fav). 16 ran

4.15 1, Quite A Man (3-1 jt-fav); 2, Alaskan Heir (25-1); 3, Kittulla (11-2). 10 ran.

4.45 1, Nodform Wonder (5-2 fav); 2, Mr Busker (14-1); 3, Jupiter Moon (8-1). 9 ran.

5.15 1, Caracol (11-2); 2, The Brewer (10-1); 3, Kerchern (11-2). Mapleton 5-1 fav. 14 ran

Stratford

2.35 1, Isis Dawn (16-1); 2, Shekels (4-9 fav); 3, Occold (16-1). 11 ran

3.05 1, Philip's Woody (7-1); 2, Super Coin (8-1); 3, Merry Panto (16-1). Over The Pole 7-2 fav. 9 ran

3.35 1, Snowshill Shaker (11-2 fav); 2, Reverse Thrust (8-1); 3, Nahla (14-1); 4, Fencer's Quest (13-2). 17 ran

4.05 1, Big Archie (33-1); 2, Domaine De Pron (9-2); 3, Melnik (6-1). Father Sky 2-1 fav. 9 ran

4.35 1, Mankind (66-1); 2, Pro Bono (10-1); 3, Eastern Pleasure (20-1). Fox Pointer 7-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Abbotsham, Lord Kilton.

5.05 1, Barford Sovereign (3-1); 2, Handy Lass (9-2); 3, Siberian Mystic (9-4 jt-fav). Secret Gift 9-4 jt-fav. 5 ran. NR: Daily Sport Girl.

5.35 1, Supreme Flyer (6-4 fav); 2, Mountain Path (7-4); 3, Pat Buckley (12-1). 11 ran

FLAT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Johnston	31	23	15	3	-8.83
R Hollinshead	22	19	20	9	-52.01
G L Moore	21	16	8	16	+12.16
D Nicholls	21	13	8	2	+12.10
Miss G Kelleway	16	10	10	8	-23.66
R Hannon	16	12	12	3	-25.84
P Haslam	15	12	8	79	+20.53

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing mounts	Level stakes
D Holland	29	29	17	19	-26.34
J Weaver	28	21	12	3	+9.68
S Drowne	24	12	11	1	-15.59
A Clark	24	19	11	7	+47.10
S Sanders	24	30	26	18	-66.72
L Dettori	19	10	9	4	-1.25
K Fallon	18	21	14	6	-19.18

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ERTLON
(3.00 Brighton)
Next best: Mister Bankes
(2.00 Brighton)

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY
NOTTINGHAM 101 201
BRIGHTON 102 202
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It's fast, it's furious and even the Queen loves watching it. **Christian Dymond** takes a look at horseball

Horsing around with a ball

Slam dunk: horseballers out of the saddle as they grapple for goal

You do not need the physique of a television Gladiator to play horseball, but there are similarities. A short blast of *Another One Bites the Dust* is traditionally played over the loudspeakers after every goal is scored in this high-adrenaline sport.

Horseball is rugby, basketball and horse riding rolled into one, a French sport imported six years ago attracting increasing numbers. "The French invented it as a way of improving riding skills and then found it was a great game to play in its own right," says Jim Copeland, the chairman of the British Horseball Association.

Mr Copeland plays for North London, one of several clubs which took part in a pre-season practice day at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, near Warwick. The Ashford Arena at the college was the venue for horseball's first league championship at the weekend.

"It's fast, exciting, tremendous fun and a great team sport. You can be an average rider and still get huge enjoyment out of the game," says Jane Bradwell, who plays for Trent Valley seniors and the British women's team. The club's under-16 team took on Cotswold Vale juniors, who come from a pony club in Cheltenham, in the second match of the day.

Horseball is almost always played indoors, on a pitch about 60 metres long and 20 metres wide. The touchline at Moreton Morrell was marked by inflated yellow tubes. The goals, elevated metre-wide hoops at each end, face outwards, rather than upwards as in basketball, and are slightly lower for the juniors. Teams consist of up to six players but only four from each side take the field at any time.

Each game at Moreton Morrell was preceded by competitors cantering around the arena and then lining up across the pitch to face the audience for an introduction by the commentator. The crowd duly applauded each player as their name was announced.

Rugby, basketball and horse riding rolled into one: horseball is a high-adrenaline sport originally designed in France as a way of improving riding skills

At the kick-off (or first pick-up) the team without the ball turns away from the opposition and faces its own goalmouth. This is because tackling head-on is considered extremely dangerous, so whenever players try to gain possession they must approach their opponents from behind.

This usually means that riders and horses on both sides are travelling in the same direction, giving an impression of cowboys heading off at high speed to round up some imaginary cattle.

From a distance, the ball resembles a model of Saturn, with a number of rings around it. In reality, it is a small football with a harness and six leather handles attached.

Players use the handles to pick up the ball and give them something to get hold of when they are trying to wrench it from an opponent's grasp. At Moreton Morrell, one of the handles came off during a tussle, indicating how fiercely the games were being contested.

Despite the sport's energy and vigour, Mr Copeland maintains that it is extremely safe. "The welfare of the horse is absolutely paramount," he says. Rules dictate that you can play the ball but not the man — and obviously not the horse. There are yellow cards for player cautions and red ones for sendings-off.

SPORT FOR ALL

At the start of each game the ball is placed on the ground in that half of the pitch belonging to the team "kicking-off". Their players face the ball — two on each side of it — and then the first rider sets off to pick up the ball.

If he or she fails to do this, another player has a go. The ball must always be picked up on the move. It's no good stopping your horse, bending down and grabbing hold of it that way.

The most important piece of equipment, therefore, is the belly strap which goes underneath the horse and holds the two stirrups together. This enables players to lean over in the saddle without fear of falling off, although that does occasionally happen.

Once someone has the ball in their hands, it must be passed between at least three different players without it being dropped before someone can take a shot at goal. This leads to the much-repeated scene of the team in possession conducting a tactical retreat to their own half to regroup and pass between the obligatory number of players before heading upfield again.

Nobody can hold on to the ball for longer than ten seconds and, should it go to ground, the "chair" referee sitting on the touchline keeps count again of the number of passes between players.

Rugby-style lineouts are taken with two horses from each side when the ball goes out of play and when a team re-starts the match after a goal.

Substitutions can be made whenever required during a break in play in the 20-minute game and each team can call one timeout in each half, a 30-second break which provides an opportunity for a quick tactical chat. Half-time lasts three minutes and was marked at Moreton Morrell by the commentator asking over the loudpeaker: "Can we have some horse-walkers please?"

So, while the players had a rest the horses were exercised to prevent them cooling down too rapidly.

Through a personal communication system, Annette Clements, chair referee at Moreton Morrell, talked almost non-stop to the mounted referee on the pitch. With their headphones and radio microphones, the mounted officials resembled rock stars in concert.

Played at speed, horseball is a tremendously exciting spectator sport. As an attacking team bear down on goal the defenders do their best to rip the ball out of their hands or simply crowd them out to prevent them passing or shooting.

The sudden spurts and rapid stops make for a game that is constantly ebbing and flowing. Quite often the players are riding using their legs only.

There are about 450 horseball clubs in France, and fewer than 20 in Britain. But everyone at Moreton Morrell was talking of the interest it is creating, among women and men.

Tony Gubb, one of the mounted referees and coach to Woodspring, near Bristol, has just started teaching horseball at Millfield School in Somerset. "Within three weeks I had 43 students take it up," he says.

A horseball exhibition will be given next month at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. At a similar display last year, the Queen asked Mr Copeland if she could watch more of it in the evening. "This game will happen in a big way here," he promises.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

THE BHA is holding four league championship weekends this season. Clubs are divided into small leagues for the first day, followed by a knock-out competition the next. The second championship weekend is at Homestead Farm, Elmstone Hardwicke, near Cheltenham (June 7 and 8, 10.30am-4pm). Admission is free. An exhibition also will be given during the Royal Windsor Horse Show (May 14-18). For juniors, horses of up to 14.2 hands only are allowed, for seniors 15-16.2 hands. Standard riding equipment is required, plus the belly strap, which costs up to £20. A standing martingale (about £25) stops the heads of rider and horse clashing. The horses have leg bandages in team colours and over-reach boots above the hooves. Bandages with soft shinpads and over-reach boots cost £15-£25 for the lot. A ball harness is £50-£60 and the ball £10-£15.

- *BHA: 0181-441 1799*

Best of British prepare to meet world elite on ten-dance stage

Ruth Gledhill on two young couples who have ambitions beyond national titles

Britain's leading ten-dance exponents, Darren Bennett and Ruth Coster, face some of the most demanding contests of their careers in the coming weeks. Next weekend, the Sheffield couple fly to Paris to represent England in the world ten-dance championships and then return to Britain to face a strong challenge from the England No 2 couple, Stephen Sysum and Katie Lagden, form South Norwood. In May, they face Sysum and Lagden again, along with the world's best dancers, at the Open British championships in Blackpool.

At Birmingham, in a championship organised by Stan Page and Beryl Holland, ten-dancing is, for the first time, to figure in a chart, or league table, under the auspices of the English Amateur Dance Association. The chart will be used to determine who represents England abroad in future international events.

Bennett, 20, and Coster, 18, suffered a convincing defeat at the hands of Sysum, 18, and Lagden, 21, in Southampton two weeks ago at a fund-raising invitation amateur competition organised by the former world champion, Stephen Hillier, in an attempt to inject new cash into youth dancing. Sysum and Lagden showed a clean pair of heels to Bennett and Coster in a contest across the five Latin dances only, the area in which Bennett and Coster are traditionally strongest.

However, Bennett, labouring with a cartilage injury, almost did not dance at all and many put their surprise defeat in Southampton down to his knee, which is now all right again after a week in a sports injuries clinic.

Bennett partnered Coster when she was just four after he had asked her to dance at his father's studio in Sheffield. This makes them the longest-serving amateur partnership in the country.

Sysum, who started out with Peggy Spencer but now goes to several former champions, including Richard Gleave, Robert Grover and Anthony Hurley for modern, and Michael Stylianos and Lynn Harman for Latin, is hoping that he and Lagden can become world professional champions simultaneously in Latin and modern, a feat achieved only once before, by Bill and Bobbie Irvine at the Albert Hall in 1968.

"You have to be very fit indeed to achieve this," Bill Irvine said. "You have to get to another level of fitness beyond that required for ballroom or Latin alone. I had to do a lot of exercise outside the ballroom. A lot of people don't realise that and start to fade when they get to the sixth dance."

Most couples specialise in either the five Latin dances of cha-cha, samba, rumba, *paso doble* and jive, or the modern dances of waltz, tango, foxtrot, quickstep and Viennese waltz. The cost — separate coaches are needed for each discipline and lessons can be as much as £45 for 45 minutes — and the time needed for training can make the ten-dance field a daunting prospect for all but the most determined.

Bennett, who is trained by Sammy Stopford, Doreen Freeman and Michael and Vicky Barr, is helped by a £1,200 Sports Council grant. Lagden is sponsored by Elaine Gornall, who also designs the dresses for the world champion, Karen Hilton. Both couples work out on the dance floor for three hours daily and, like most British amateurs but unlike many of their foreign counterparts, all four are in full-time employment or further education.

John Leach, associate editor of *Dance News*, does not underestimate the difficulty for a British couple to make it to the top in the world ten-dance league. "We really have not been in the running on the amateur ten-dance scene for ten years," Leach said. "Our couples tend to specialise because of the difficulties in training to keep ten dances at a world-class standard."

The benefit of this approach has been the emergence of modern amateur champions such as Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, or the reigning world professionals, Karen and Marcus Hilton, who were former amateur Latin champions before switching to modern.

Led by Hillier and his wife, Lindsey, who have formed the British Dance Sport Foundation, moves are already afoot to inject more cash into youth and junior dancing to fight off the German and east European challenge. In addition, the energy produced by the healthy rivalry between Bennett and Sysum and the determination they share to make it to the top means it is too early to write Britain off as a serious contender in the international ten-dance league.

GILL ALLEN

Bennett and Coster practise a Latin routine in training for the ten-dance world championships

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

When you have ten cards in a suit missing only the queen, it is particularly irritating to lose a trick. At least two declarers managed it in the first division of the 1996-97 Premier League.

Dealer West **Game all** **IMPs**

North: ♠A872 ♥KJ7 ♦K5 ♣AJ92

West: ♠KJ109 ♥1083 ♦832 ♣Q76

East: ♠Q6543 ♥6542 ♦A1074 ♣—

South: ♠— ♥AQ9 ♦QJ96 ♣K108543

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: jack of spades

Brian Senior and I reached Six Clubs after North (Senior) opened One Spade. Opening a four-card major with a good hand has some theoretical demerits, but that's what Senior likes so that's what we play.

The only problem in Six Clubs is to pick up the trump suit. Usually when a player has Q x x of trumps in a slam he "druckens" himself (an expression I saw in Le Carré's *The Taylor of Panama*, meaning to make oneself inconspicuous), and leads quickly while trying to look invisible. But on this occasion West asked a lot of questions before leading, and hence I thought it more likely that East had the queen of clubs. So I played a club to the ace, and went down.

At another table the ebullient Joe Fawcett opened One Club on the North hand, and with no opposition bidding eventually played in Six Clubs. In the process North had shown a balanced 15-17 points, and South good club support with spade shortage. East led the ace of diamonds.

What do you make of that? Sometimes players lead unsupported aces against slams because they are hoping to make a trump trick. And Fawcett saw an additional reason for playing East for club length — many hands with an ace and a void will be able to bid over One Club. If East had Q x x of clubs he would be more likely to have a balanced hand, and so be less likely to bid. So Fawcett also decided to play East for trump length, and started the clubs by laying down the ace.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Staffordshire centenary

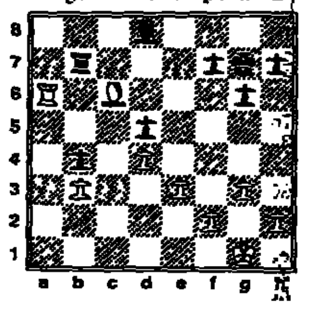
The Staffordshire centenary tournament resulted in a success for Bogdan Lalic and Jonathan Rowson who respectively scored seven and 6½ points from nine. In the game today grandmaster Lalic conducts an elegant positional campaign against the woman grandmaster Jana Bellin. White's grip over important squares on the c-file, combined with pressure against Black's weak pawns on a5 and c6 eventually scored a model victory.

White: Bogdan Lalic
Black: Jana Bellin
Staffordshire centenary
April 1997

Queen's Indian Defence

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	b6
3	Nc3	Bb7
4	d4	e6
5	a3	d5
6	Bg5	Be7
7	Qa4+	c6
8	Bxf6	Bxf6
9	cxd5	exd5
10	g3	0-0
11	Bg2	Nd7
12	0-0	Re8
13	Rfd1	a5
14	e3	b5
15	Qc2	Nb6
16	a4	b4
17	Ne2	Nc4
18	Nf4	Qb6
19	Nd3	Rac8
20	Rac1	Qd8
21	Nc5	Ba8
22	Nd2	Nd6
23	Qd3	Nb7
24	Ndb3	Qc7
25	Nxb7	Qxb7
26	Rc5	Bd8
27	Bh3	Rb8
28	Nxa5	Qa7
29	Nxc6	Bxc6
30	Rxc6	Qxa4
31	Ra6	Ba5
32	Ra7	Red8
33	b3	Qb5
34	Qf5	Rb7
35	Bf1	Qb6
36	Ra6	Qc7
37	Rd2	Bb6
38	Rc2	Qe7
39	Rc8	g6
40	Qc2	Kg7
41	Rxd8	Bxd8
42	Qc6	Qd7
43	Bb5	Qxc6
44	Bxc6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Computer challenge

In two weeks' time Garry Kasparov, the world champion, commences his rematch against IBM's mark II Deep Blue computer. Last Saturday I gave game five of the match last year with comments. From tomorrow I will give the remaining games of the 1996 clash and make my predictions on the result.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TITRE
a. To haver
b. A French gable end
c. Fineness of gold

URE
a. A meadow
b. A brown she-bear
c. A damp mist

TROCHILUS
a. A Trochaic metre
b. The crocodile bird
c. A double pulley

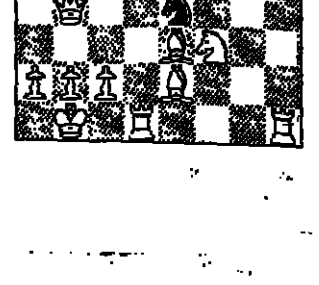
UNICIST
a. An anti-Trinitarian
b. A single sculler
c. A cell

Answers on page 47

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Gallagher — Summerscale, Cannes 1997 and arose from the Dragon variation of the Sicilian. White is charging ahead on the kingside while Black, rather than defending, is counterattacking on the opposite wing. However, White now breaks through first. How?



Solution on page 47

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (WLAF): Frankfurt 19 Amsterdam Admirals 10; Rhein Fire 28 London Monarchs 6; Scottish Claymores 7 Barcelona Dragons 20

ATHLETICS

Road running

ROTTERDAM: Marathon: Men: 1, D Castro (Port) 2hr 7min 51sec; 2, A Gomes (Sp) 2 07 54; 3, S Korir (Ken) 2 08 02; 4, S Lopuyet (Ken) 2 08 19; 5, A Mekonnen (Eth) 2 08 46. Women: 1, T Loroupe (Ken) 2 22 07; 2, M Renders (Bel) 2 25 56; 3, M Ito (Japan) 2 26 03; 4, L Slegers (Bel) 2 34 15; 5, K Loonen (Holl) 2 36 14

BELGRADE: Marathon: Men: 1, J Ndeti (Ken) 2hr 13min 37sec; 2, R Chebutich (Ken) 2 13 44; 3, O Mutisya (Ken) 2 14 02; 4, P Pabiocki (Pol) 2 14 52; 5, M Cholo (Tan) 2 15 07. Women: 1, I Bogacheva (Kyrgyzstan) 2 34 56; 2, E Makolova (Russ) 2 36 45; 3, A Barbu (Rom) 2 38 15; 4, S Cinc (Yug) 2 38 25; 5, S Cact (Mol) 2 38 37

SALFORD: Saucony 5km: 1, N Comerford (Cardiff) 14min 25sec; 2, R Findlow (Bradford and Airedale) 14 29; 3, J Moorhouse (Birchfield) 14 37. Team: Salford. Women: 1, S Young (Salford) 16 20; 2, L Wright (Leeds City) 16 25. Team: Macclesfield 93

Track and field

KINGSTON: Invitation women's hammer: 1, H Arnold (City of Portsmouth) 48.84m; 2, A Gardner (Corby) 48.54m; 3, S Last (Medway) 44 60m.

BATTERSEA PARK: Belgrave open meeting: Men: 200m: E White (Sale) 21 8sec. Discus: L Newman (Belgrave) 56.24m

WOODFORD: Representative match: Men: Shot: M Proctor (Royal Air Force) 19.41m (RAF record). Discus: Proctor 49.46m

SHEFFIELD: Westfield open meeting: Men: 800m: D Spawforth (Wakefield) 1min 52.1sec. Long jump: S Phillips (Rugby) 7 70m. Women: Javelin: L Stevenson (Sale) 44 78m

Road walking

PODEBRADY, Czech Republic: IAAF world walking championships: Men: 20km: 1, J Perez (Ec) 1hr 18min 24sec; 2, D Garcia (Mex) 1.18:27; 3, L Markov (Russ) 1 18 30. British positions: 79, A Penn (Coventry RWC) 1 26 49; 85, M Easton (Surrey WC) 1 28 02; 92, G White (Brighton and Hove) 1 29 27. Teams: 1, Russia 431pts; 24, Great Britain 241. 50km: 1, J Garcia (Sp) 3hr 39min 54sec; 2, O Ishutkin (Russ) 3 40 12; 3, V Kononen (Fin) 3 41 09. British times: C Maddocks (Plymouth) 4 05 40; C Cheeseman (Surrey) 4 10 22; L Moreton (Sheffield WC) 4 16 12; K Alton (Leicester WC) 4 16 30. Teams: 1, Russia 434; 14, Great Britain 308. Women: 10km: 1, I Stankina (Russ) 41min 52sec; 2, O Ivanova (Russ) 41 59; 3, Y Gu (China) 42 15. British positions: 58, V Lupton (Sheffield) 47 16; 80, S Black (Birchfield) 49 00; 94, V Snook (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 50 14; 101, L Crump (Sheffield) 51 20. Teams: 1, Russia 440pts; 20, Great Britain 270

Fell running

MOURNE MOUNTAINS, Northern Ireland: Slieve Bernagh fell race (7M, 2,625ft): Men: 1, R Bryson (Newcastle) 54min 30sec (record); 2, D McNeilly (Newcastle) 56 12; 3, B Ervine (Ballydrain) 55 30. Women: 1, J Tran (Barl) 1 23 46; 2, A Sandford (Ballydrain) 1 25 07; 3, V O'Connell (Lisburn) 1 27 40

SKIPTON, North Yorkshire: Hebden Moor fell race (4 5M, 900ft): Men: 1, S Hawkins (Bingley) 24min 35sec (record); 2, C Donnelly (Eryri) 25 01; 3, M Keys (Rossendale) 25 09. Women: 1, V Wilkinson (Bingley, U20, 18th) 28 52 (record); 2, C Greenwood (Bingley) 31 07; 3, V Peacock (Clayton-le-Moors, W40) 31 36

BADMINTON

REDBRIDGE, Essex: Friends Provident grand slam tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: R Nock (Gloucestershire) wo C Haughton (Lancashire) scr; P Knowles (Kent) bt B Flockhart (Scot) 15-5, 15-5; P Bush (Wiltshire) bt M Constable (Warwickshire) 15-5, 15-3; D Hall (Essex) bt S Pandya (Staffordshire) 15-4, 15-0. Semi-finals: Knowles bt Nock 15-9, 15-18, 15-6; Hall bt Bush 15-10, 15-10. Women: Quarter-finals: K Morgan (Wales) bt S Watt (Scot) 11-1, 11-1; J Muggeridge (Kent) bt J Wilmott (Yorkshire) 11-4, 11-6; A Gibson (Scot) bt T Woodward (Sussex) 11-6, 11-8; J Mann (Warwickshire) bt P Hamson (Essex) 11-3, 11-1. Semi-finals: Morgan bt Muggeridge 11-3, 11-8; Mann bt Gibson 2-11, 12-10, 12-9

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Oakland 9 Detroit 5; Milwaukee 10 Cleveland 2; NY Yankees 10 Chicago White Sox 4; Toronto 6 Texas 5; Minnesota 10 Seattle 3. Postponed: Baltimore v Boston. Saturday: Oakland 7 Detroit 1; Cleveland 11 Milwaukee 6; New York Yankees 3 Chicago White Sox 2; Kansas City 7 Anaheim 3; Toronto 6 Texas 0; Minnesota 4 Seattle 0. Postponed: Baltimore v Boston

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	10	3	.769	—
Toronto	8	6	.571	2½
Boston	8	7	.533	3
NY Yankees	7	10	.412	5
Detroit	7	11	.389	5½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	8	5	.615	—
Minnesota	10	7	.588	—
Kansas City	7	7	.500	1½
Cleveland	7	9	.438	2½
Chicago WS	4	12	.250	5½

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	10	7	.588	—
Oakland	9	8	.529	1
Texas	7	7	.500	1½
Anaheim	6	9	.400	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday: Philadelphia 8 Montreal 3; Cincinnati 6 Pittsburgh 1; Atlanta 14 Colorado 0; Los Angeles 5 Houston 3; San Francisco 5 Florida 4. Postponed: Chicago Cubs v New York Mets. Saturday: Pittsburgh 8 Cincinnati 5; New York Mets 6 Chicago Cubs 3; Atlanta 8 Colorado 7; San Francisco 3 Florida 2; Philadelphia 10 Montreal 8; Houston 2 Los Angeles 1; St Louis 1 San Diego 0 (first game); St Louis 2 San Diego 1 (second game).

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	13	3	.813	—
Florida	10	6	.625	3
Montreal	5	9	.357	7
NY Mets	5	10	.333	7½
Philadelphia	5	10	.333	7½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	10	7	.588	—
Pittsburgh	7	8	.467	2
Cincinnati	6	11	.353	4
St Louis	6	10	.375	3½
Chicago Cubs	0	13	.000	8

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	12	3	.800	—
Colorado	10	5	.667	2
Los Angeles	10	5	.667	2
San Diego	8	7	.533	4

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off: Third leg: Birmingham 78 Chester 81. Chester win series 2-1

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Semi-final play-offs: Men: First division: Plymouth 56 Coventry 48. Second division: Solihull 76 South Wales 75. Women: First division: Sheffield 60 Rhondda 46; Thames Valley 60 Crystal Palace 53.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Toronto 108 Charlotte 100; Cleveland 82 Detroit 75; New Jersey 86 Miami 74; New York 97 Indiana 89; Boston 119 Philadelphia 113; Minnesota 122 Milwaukee 112; Phoenix 106 San Antonio 95; Washington 104 Orlando 93; Houston 112 Dallas 102 (OT); LA Lakers 123 LA Clippers 95. Saturday: Atlanta 136 Philadelphia 104; Miami 102 Orlando 88; New York 103 Chicago 101; Denver 100 Dallas 95; Utah 101 Minnesota 89; Vancouver 121 Phoenix 107; Seattle 125 LA Clippers 100; Sacramento 122 Golden State 120 (OT)

Eastern Conference
Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
† Miami	61	21	.744	—
* New York	57	25	.695	4
* Orlando	45	37	.549	16
Washington	43	38	.531	17½
New Jersey	25	56	.309	35½
Philadelphia	22	60	.268	39
Boston	15	66	.185	45½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
†§ Chicago	69	13	.841	—
* Atlanta	56	25	.691	12½
* Charlotte	54	27	.667	14½
* Detroit	53	28	.654	15½
Cleveland	42	39	.519	26½
Indiana	39	42	.481	29½
Milwaukee	32	49	.395	36½
Toronto	29	52	.358	39½

Western Conference
Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
†§ Utah	63	18	.778	—
* Houston	56	25	.691	7
* Minnesota	40	42	.488	23½
Dallas	24	58	.293	39½
Denver	21	61	.256	42½
San Antonio	20	61	.247	43
Vancouver	14	68	.171	49½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Seattle	57	25	.695	—
* LA Lakers	56	25	.691	½
* Portland	48	33	.593	8½
* Phoenix	40	42	.488	17
* LA Clippers	36	46	.439	21
Sacramento	34	47	.420	22½
Golden State	30	52	.366	27

§ denotes conference winners
† denotes division winner
** denotes qualified for play-offs*

BOWLS

LLANELLI: Women's world indoor championship: Section A: A Sutherland (Wales) bt S Hazell (Eng) 7-5, 6-7, 7-3; P Nolan (Ire) bt K Horman (Jersey) 7-4, 1-7, 7-6; Hazell bt Nolan 7-6, 7-0; Sutherland bt Horman 7-6, 7-1. Section winner: Sutherland. Runner-up: Hazell. Section B: M Castle (NZ) bt M Wilkinson (Ire) 7-1, 7-1; C McAllister (Scot) bt J Lowery (Jersey) 2-7, 7-6, 7-6; McAllister bt Castle 3-7, 7-2, 7-3; Wilkinson bt Lowery 7-0, 2-7, 7-6. Section winner: McAllister. Runner-up: Castle. Section C: A Simon (Guernsey) bt R Forrest (Can) 7-1, 7-5; N Shaw (Eng) bt E McGarvie (Scot) 7-2, 7-4; McGarvie bt Forrest 7-1, 7-3; Shaw bt Simon 7-4, 7-1. Section winner: Shaw. Runner-up: McGarvie. Section D: J Rylance (Eng) bt L Evans (Wales) 7-4, 7-2; A Merrien (Guernsey) bt Lei Suk Man (Hong Kong) 7-5, 7-3; Rylance bt Li Suk Man 7-6, 7-0; Evans bt Merrien 7-1, 1-7, 7-4. Section winner: Rylance. Runner-up: Merrien. Quarter-finals: Castle bt Rylance 7-3, 7-3, 7-6; Shaw bt Hazell 7-4, 7-0, 3-7, 7-2; McAllister bt McGarvie 7-5, 4-7, 7-0, 1-7, 7-3; Merrien bt Sutherland 2-7, 7-4, 7-1, 7-4. Semi-finals: Shaw bt Castle 6-7, 7-3, 4-7, 7-0, 7-2; McAllister bt Merrien 7-3, 7-6, 4-7, 2-7, 7-5

YORK: All England mixed fours championship: Quarter-finals: North Walsham bt Blackpool Borough 18-16; Charnwood bt Darlington 17-12; Boston bt Kingsthorpe 15-14; Atherley bt Victory 12-11. Semi-finals: Charnwood bt North Walsham 12-11; Boston bt Atherley 16-14

SOUTH FOREST: English Bowling Federation national indoor championships: Finals: Singles: C Cairns (Northumberland) bt J Newson (Northants) 21-18. Pairs: A Birrell and A Lawton (Durham) bt J Webb and J Hines (North Cambs) 21-9. Rinks: D Ellis, D and S Skelton (Lincs) bt N Rutter, P Talleck, G Mitchell (Durham) 22-14. Inter-county championship (Derbyshire Trophy): Lincolnshire bt Northumberland 159-97. Inter-county championship (Eversley Trophy): Derbyshire bt Northamptonshire 105-73

BOXING

LAS VEGAS: World Boxing Organisation junior-featherweight championship: Junior Jones (US, holder) bt Marco Antonio Barrera (Mex) pts. World Boxing Association welterweight championship: Ike Quartey (Ghana, holder) bt Ralph Jones (US) rsc 5th

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana: International Boxing Federation middleweight championship: Bernard Hopkins (US, holder) bt John David Jackson (US) rsc 7th. World Boxing Association super-middleweight championship: Frankie Liles (US, holder) bt Segundo Mercado (Ecu) rsc 5th.

MILAN: World Boxing Organisation super-lightweight championship: Giovanni Parisi (It, holder) bt Harold Miller (US) rsc 8th.

CURLING

BERNE, Switzerland: World championships: Men: Semi-finals: Sweden 6 Canada 4; Scotland 3 Germany 6. Final: Sweden 6 Germany 3. Women: Semi-finals: Canada 5 Denmark 2; Norway 12 Japan 5. Third-place play-off: Denmark 7 Japan 6. Final: Canada 8 Norway 4

EQUESTRIANISM

SHROPSHIRE: Weston Park Horse Trials: Pedigree Chum Special Advanced: 1, Irish Patriot (M Kyle, Ire) 44pts; 2, Watermill Stream (B O Böker, Ger) 45; 3, Just An Ace (R Lemieux, GB) 47

GOLF

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina: MCI Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 203: N Price (Zim) 65, 69, 69. 205: B Faxon 66, 69, 70. 206: T Lehman 66, 73, 67. 208: T Watson 68, 70, 70; L Clements 67, 68, 73. 209: J Parnevik (Swe) 72, 71, 66. 210: W Wood 73, 69, 68; D Martin 71, 71, 68. 211: B Wadkins 73, 68, 70. 212: J Cook 72, 74, 66; S Gump 72, 73, 67; R Tway 72, 70, 70; D Hammond 71, 71, 70; H Sutton 67, 74, 71; P Mickelson 68, 72, 72; R Fehr 66, 69, 77. Other scores: 215: S Appleby (Aus) 70, 73, 72. 216: F Allem (SA) 71, 72, 73. 218: C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 74, 73; V Singh (Fiji) 71, 72, 75. 221: E Els (SA) 74, 68, 79.

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina: LPGA Koman International: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 208: C Johnston-Forbes 69, 73, 66; N Bowen 65, 73, 70. 209: R Jones 70, 73, 66; L Kane 72, 70, 67. 210: K Webb (Aus) 72, 72, 66; M McGann 69, 73, 68. 211: J Inkster 70, 72, 69. 212: C Walker 72, 72, 68; P Bradley 71, 73, 68; C Sorenstam (Swe) 70, 73, 69; A Sorenstam (Swe) 68, 74, 70; M Will-Halpin 69, 72, 71; P Sheehan 69, 71, 72; T Barrett 68, 72, 72. 213: L Davies (GB) 68, 76, 69; N Harvey (Can) 66, 78, 69; L Hackney (GB) 68, 74, 71; B Burton 69, 72, 72. Other scores: 214: L Neumann (Swe) 73, 74, 67. 215: M Hirase (Japan) 68, 75, 72. 216: C Hj Koch (Swe) 69, 75, 72; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 72, 75. 217: P Wright (GB) 72, 75, 70; D Coe-Jones (Can) 72, 74, 71. 218: H Kobayashi (Japan) 72, 74, 72. 220: K Davies (GB) 78, 72, 70; C Matthew (GB) 73, 75, 72. 221: M Lunn (Aus) 72, 76, 73. 223: E Dahllof (Swe) 75, 74, 74

GYMNASTICS

ARUN LEISURE CENTRE, Bognor Regis: British women's team championships: 1, Heathrow GC 134 537pts; 2, South Essex 133 061; 3, City of Liverpool 131 624; 4, Girstang 127 374; 5, Leatherhead and Dorking 126 687; 6, Easton 125 774

HOCKEY

MEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary rounds: First division: Group one (Crosby): Lancashire 6 Durham 3; Essex 2 Middlesex 6; Northamptonshire 3 Lancashire 2; Durham 2 Essex 5; Middlesex 1 Northamptonshire 1. Group two (Telford): Shropshire 0 Cheshire 5; Kent 2 Warwickshire 1; Nottinghamshire 7 Shropshire 0; Warwickshire 1 Nottinghamshire 4. Group three (Cannock): Staffordshire 3 Sussex 3; Berkshire 3 RAF 3; Yorkshire 2 Staffordshire 4; Sussex 5 RAF 0; Berkshire 1 Yorkshire 3. Group four (Surbiton): Army 3 Surrey 6; Cambridgeshire 3 Hampshire 2; Somerset 2 Army 2; Surrey 12 Cambridgeshire 2; Hampshire 0 Somerset 2. Second division: Group five (Cleator Moor): Cumbria 1 Worcestershire 2; Channel Islands 2 Norfolk 5; Northumberland 1 Cumbria 1; Worcestershire 0 Channel Islands 2; Norfolk 2 Northumberland 1. Group six (Melton Mowbray): Leicestershire 3 Lincolnshire 2; Derbyshire 8 Isle of Man 1; Derbyshire 5 Lincolnshire 2; Isle of Man 0 Leicestershire 4. Group seven (RN Portsmouth): Cornwall 0 Royal Navy 7; Devon 6 Bedfordshire 5; Herefordshire 3 Royal Navy 6; Cornwall 0 Devon 10; Bedfordshire 6 Herefordshire 3. Group eight (Ipswich): Suffolk 6 Wiltshire 2; Gloucestershire 3 Oxfordshire 2.

CARDIFF: Women's four-nation tournament: Wales 11 Slovakia 0; Ireland 11 Poland 0; Slovakia 0 Poland 3; Wales 1 Ireland 4; Ireland 7 Slovakia 0; Wales 5 Poland 0. Final positions: 1, Ireland 9pts; 2, Wales 6; 3, Poland 3.

MILTON KEYNES: Women's inter-league champions tournament: Colwall 3 Tulse Hill 2; Poynton 0 Aldridge 0; Bury St Edmunds 1 Colwall 2; Poynton 1 Tulse Hill 3; Aldridge 2 Bury St Edmunds 0; Colwall 3 Poynton 4; Tulse Hill 1 Bury 0; Aldridge 2 Colwall 1; Bury 2 Poynton 3; Tulse Hill 0 Aldridge 2. Final positions: 1, Aldridge 10pts; 2, Poynton 7; 3, Colwall 6; 4, Tulse Hill 6; 5, Bury St Edmunds 0

☐ *Aldridge and Poynton qualify for Women's National League*

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs, first-round: Eastern Conference: New Jersey 4 Montreal 1 (New Jersey leads best-of-seven series 2-0); Ottawa 3 Buffalo 1 (series tied 1-1); Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 2 (Philadelphia lead 2-0)

KATOWICE, Poland: World championship: Pool B: Switzerland 5 Belarus 6; Austria 2 Great Britain 2; Kazakhstan 3 Poland 3; Denmark 4 Holland 6

JUDO

BIRMINGHAM: British Open championships: Men: Under-60kg: Semi-finals: R Naveira (Sp) bt S Hohnsbein (Ger); S Dunkley (GB) bt A Lang (Isr). Final: Naveira bt Dunkley. Under-65kg: Semi-finals: I-S Hwang (Kor) bt S Moss (GB); H Djimli (Fr) bt O Bagrovinel (Fr). Final: Hwang bt Djimli. Under-71kg: Semi-finals: J P Bell (GB) bt L Harron (GB); S Frisch (Ger) bt Y-S Suh (Kor). Final: Frisch bt Bell. Women: Under-61kg: Semi-finals: C Peel (GB) bt G Hutchins (GB); E Yaron (Isr) bt Y Bonisch (Ger). Final: Peel bt Yaron. Under-66kg: Semi-finals: A Abdellatif (Fr) bt K Powell (GB); K Howie (GB) bt A van Rekowski (Ger). Final: Howie bt Abdellatif. Under-72kg: Semi-finals: C Cowan (GB) bt V Langeveld (Holl); N Bruns (Ger) bt S Delwiche (Bel). Final: Cowan bt Bruns. Over-72kg: Semi-finals: F Soleymanoglu (Fr) bt C Sweevliel (Holl); M Rogers (GB) bt F Harteveld (Holl). Final: Rogers bt Soleymanoglu

MOTORCYCLING

SUZUKA, Japan: Marlboro Grand Prix (3 66-mile): 500cc (21 laps): 1, M Doohan (Aus, Honda) 45min 11.995sec; 2, A Criville (Sp, Honda) 45 12.426; 3, T Okada (Japan, Honda) 45 18 042. 250cc (19 laps): 1, D Kato (Japan, Honda) 41 42.226; 2, T Kawa (Japan, Honda) 41.42 434; 3, Tetsuya Harada (Japan, Aprilia) 41.42.544. 125cc (18 laps): 1, N Ueda (Japan, Honda) 41:48 072; 2, K Sakata (Japan, Aprilia) 41.48 437; 3, H Nakajo (Japan, Honda) 41 48 578.

MOTOR RACING

SILVERSTONE: Auto Trader RAC touring car championship: Second round (20 laps/45 04 miles): 1, A Menu (Switz) 28min 13.133sec; 2, R Rydell (Swe) at 3 187sec; 3, J Plato (GB) at 5.722; 4, T Harvey (GB) at 26 476; 5, D Warwick (GB) at 29.250. Third round (20 laps): 1, Menu 28min 20.191sec; 2, Rydell at 0.704; 3, D Leslie (GB) at 13 016; 4, K Burt (GB) at 15.266; 5, G Tarquini (It) at 20 520. Fourth round (45 04 miles): 1, Menu 28min 13 133sec; 2, Rydell at 3 187sec; 3, Plato at 5 722; 4, Harvey at 26 476; 5, Warwick at 29 250. Leading championship positions: 1, Menu 61pts; 2, Rydell 36; 3, Plato 26

SNOOKER

SHEFFIELD: World championship: First round: S Hendry (Scot) bt A Hicks (Eng) 10-6; M Williams (Wales) bt T Griffiths (Wales) 10-9; L Walker (Wales) bt D Harold (Eng) 10-7; S Mazrocis (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 10-3.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Arena Essex 45 Long Eaton 45; Edinburgh 51 Stoke 39; Oxford 57 Skegness 33; Berwick 46 Stoke 43

ELITE LEAGUE: Belle Vue 63 King's Lynn 27; Coventry 50 Ipswich 40; Swindon 55 Poole 35

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Peterborough 48 Ipswich 42; Bradford 57 Belle Vue 33; Eastbourne 52 Peterborough 37

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Peterborough 51 Mildenhall 26

SQUASH

BORDEAUX: Mutualité Française Tour Final: Quarter-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) wo Zubair Jahan (Pak); B Martin (Aus) bt D Jenson (Aus) 15-11, 12-15, 15-9, 15-11; S Parke (Eng) bt A Hill (Aus) 15-13, 15-8, 15-7; P Eyles (Aus) bt C van der Wath (SA) 15-13, 15-12, 15-11. Semi-finals: Jansher bt Martin 15-9, 15-10, 15-8; Eyles bt Parke 15-8, 14-15, 14-10, 15-12. Final: Jansher bt Eyles 13-15, 11-15, 15-14, 15-4, 15-4

SWIMMING

GOTHENBURG, Sweden: World short-course championships: Finals: Friday: Men: 200m backstroke: 1, N Bent (Cuba) 1min 54.21sec; 2, Weng Wei (China) 1:54 82; 3, V Selkov (Russ) 1 55 15; 4, A Ruckwood (GB) 1 55 55 (British record). 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, Australia 7min 02 74sec (world record); 2, Sweden 7 05 61; 3, Great Britain (P Palmer, A Clayton, M Stevens, J Salter) 7 05 81 (British record). Women: 200m freestyle: 1, C Poll (C Rica) 1min 57 90sec; 2, M Moravcova (Slovakia) 1 58 32; 3, Nian Yin (China) 1:58 37. B final: 1, C Huddart (GB) 1 59 16; 2, K Pickering (GB) 1:59.23. 800m freestyle: 1, N Bowron (Aus) 8min 26 45sec; 2, K Kielgass (Ger) 8.28.10; 3, C Geurts (Holl) 8 28 96. 100m backstroke: 1, Lu Donghua (China) 59 75sec; 2, Chen Yan (China) 1min 00 14sec; 3, M Hyman (US) 1:00 17. B final: 3, S Price (GB) 1 01 57; 4, Z Cray (GB) 1 01 86. Saturday: Men: 100m freestyle: 1, F Sanchez (Ven) 47 86sec; 2, G Borges (Br) 48 16; 3, M Klim (Aus) 48.21. 200m breaststroke: 1, A Goukov (Bela) 2min 09 25sec; 2, A Korneev (Russ) 2 09.28; 3, J Kruppa (Ger) 2 10 95; 6, R Maden (GB) 2 10 95. 200m butterfly: 1, J Hickman (GB) 1min 55.55sec; 2, D Silantiev (Ukr) 1 56 76; 3, S Goodman (Aus) 1 55 94. Women: 400m freestyle: 1, C Poll (C Rica) 4min 00 03sec (world record); 2, N Bowron (Aus) 4:05.76; 3, K Kielgass (Ger) 4 07 13. 100m breaststroke: 1, K Ellem (Aus) 1min 08 27sec; 2, A Peczak (Pol) 1 08.33; 3, S Bondarenko (Ukr) 1 08.39. 100m butterfly: 1, J Thompson (US) 57 79sec (world record); 2, H Cai (China) 57 92; 3, M Hyman (US) 57 95 (Hyman 50m split, 26 55sec, world record). 4 x 100m freestyle: 1, China 3min 34 55sec (world record); 2, Germany 3.34 66 (European record); 3, Sweden, 3 39 98; 4, Great Britain (Pickering, Huddart, Hawcroft, Rolph) 3 39.98 (British record). Yesterday: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, F Sanchez (Ven) 21.80sec; 2, M Foster (GB) 22 03; 3, R Busquets (P Rico) 22 17. 100m backstroke: 1, N Bent (Cuba) 52 77sec (championship record); 2, B Retterer (US) 53 06; 3, A Radley (Aus) 53 36. 200m individual medley: 1, M Dunn (Aus) 1min 57 46sec; 2, C Keller (Ger) 1 58.35; 3, R Kamaugh (US) 1 59 12; 4, J Hickman (GB) 1 59 49. Women: 200m individual medley: 1, L Karlsson (Swe) 2min 11 19sec; 2, M Moravcova (Slovakia) 2:11 21; 3, S Rolph (GB) 2:12 39. 200m backstroke: 1, Chen Yan (China) 2min 07.50sec; 2, M Hyman (US) 2:07.66; 3, L Oberstar (US) 2 08.29; 6, J Deakins (GB) 2:10.61

TABLE TENNIS

GLASGOW: Commonwealth championships: Men: Singles: Fourth round: M Syed (Eng) bt P Preedeben (Can) 21-2, 21-11, 21-19; P Langley (Aus) bt S Raman (India) 20-22, 21-15, 21-16, 21-15; Jun Liu (Malaysia) bt A Dutta (India) 21-9, 21-13, 21-16; F Trudel (Can) bt P Jackson (NZ) 20-22, 13-21, 21-15, 21-18, 21-19; C Baboor (India) bt S Ward (Wales) 21-19, 21-19, 21-17; A Perry (Eng) bt Hai Tao Geng (Can) 21-16, 21-19, 21-15; R Lavale (Aus) bt K Liu (Can) 21-9, 21-18, 21-16; A Cooke (Eng) bt A Basek (India) 21-19 21-17 21-11. Quarter-finals: Syed bt Langley 21-8, 21-12, 21-11; Jun Liu bt Trudel 21-8, 21-13, 21-5; Baboor bt Perry 21-17, 21-14, 21-17; Cooke bt Lavale 19-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-9. Semi-finals: Syed bt Jun Liu 21-16, 21-18, 21-16; Cooke bt Baboor 21-18, 21-18, 21-8. Final: Syed bt Cooke 14-21, 21-16, 20-22, 21-17, 22-20. Doubles: Semi-finals: Cooke and B Billington (Eng) bt P Jackson and S Laugesen (NZ) 21-12, 21-18; Raman and Baboor bt Ward and Jenkins 21-18, 21-16. Final: Raman and Baboor bt Cooke and Billington 18-21, 21-18, 21-18. Women: Singles: Fourth round: Jing Jun Hong (Sing) bt M Miao (Aus) 21-15, 21-7, 19-21, 21-13; Lin Jing Yao (Malaysia) bt N Deaton (Eng) 21-15, 21-8, 21-11; M Das (India) bt C Ngo (Can) 21-12, 21-11, 11-21, 17-21, 21-10; A Holt (Eng) bt Li Ping Koh (Sing) 21-23, 21-9, 21-15, 21-16; L Radford (Eng) bt S Zhou (Aus) 23-21, 21-13, 21-16; P Tan (Sing) bt P Cada (Can) 21-15, 21-18, 21-17; H Lower (Eng) bt M Mythili (India) 22-20, 20-22, 14-21, 21-9, 21-9; Jia Wei Li (Sing) bt B Phua (Malaysia) 19-21, 21-17, 21-12, 21-14. Quarter-finals: Jing bt Lin 21-10, 21-14, 21-19; Holt bt Das 21-15, 21-6, 17-21, 21-11; Tan bt Radford 21-16, 23-25, 21-19, 22-20; Jia bt Lower 21-17, 21-12, 21-15. Semi-finals: Jing Jun Hong bt Holt 21-2, 21-13, 21-7; Paey Fern Tan bt Jia Wei Li 12-21, 21-12, 14-21, 21-14, 21-16. Final: Jing bt Tan 21-9, 21-9, 21-11. Doubles: Semi-finals: Jia Wei Li and Jing Jun Hong bt Phua and Beh 21-12, 21-6; P Tan and L Koh bt Daunton and Williams 21-11, 21-7. Final: Jing and Jia bt Tan and Koh 21-11, 21-17. Mixed doubles: Semi-finals: Jia Wei Li and Chin Pang Lai (Sing) bt Bhuvneshwari and Raman 16-21, 21-9, 21-8; Jing Jun Hong and Yew Fai Sen bt Geng and Ngo 21-15, 21-7. Final: Li and Lai bt Jing and Sen 21-13, 21-12

TENNIS

BARCELONA: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: A Costa (Sp) bt C Moyà (Sp) 7-6, 7-5; A Portas (Sp) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-3, 7-5

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Castleford 12 Halifax 28

Castleford Tigers: Tries: Sampson, Vowles. Goals: Orr, Tonks. Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Gillespie, Moana, Munro, Pearson. Goals: Pearson 6. Att: 4,304

St Helens 60 Warrington 16

St Helens: Tries: Martyn 2, Anderson, Haigh, Hammond, Hunte, Newlove, Northey, O Neill, Prescott, Sullivan. Goals: Goulding 8. Warrington Wolves: Tries: Forster 2, Kohe-Love, Vagana. Att: 11,609.

Wigan 44 Oldham 10

Wigan Warriors: Tries: A Johnson 2, Connolly 2, Farrell, Murdock, O'Connor, Smith. Goals: Farrell 5, Hall. Oldham Bears: Tries: Munro, Stephenson. Goal: Maloney. Att: 7,885

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: London Broncos 48 Salford Reds 12; Paris Saint-Germain 18 Bradford Bulls 30

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	7	6	0	1	217	93	12
Bradford	6	6	0	0	197	100	12
Salford	7	5	0	2	135	151	10
London	7	4	1	2	208	133	9
Halifax	7	4	1	2	157	130	9
Wigan	7	4	0	3	156	137	8
* Leeds	6	4	0	2	131	114	8
Warrington	7	3	0	4	159	238	6
* Sheffield	6	2	0	4	122	123	4
Paris	7	1	0	6	114	180	2
Oldham	7	1	0	6	135	219	2
Castleford	8	0	0	8	99	211	0

** not including last night's match*

First division

Hull 26 Huddersfield 4

Hull: Tries: Donohue, Holmes, Liddiard, McKenzie. Goals: Hewitt 5. Huddersfield Giants: Try: Hanger. Att: 8,859

Keighley 16 Dewsbury 26

Keighley Cougars: Tries: Foster, Gately, Wray. Goals: Irving 2. Dewsbury Rams: Tries: A Delaney, Patterson, S Williams, Woodcock. Goals: Eaton 5. Att: 2,816

Swinton 28 Hull KR 20

Swinton Lions: Tries: S Casey 2, Barrow, Craig, Riley. Goals: Pearce 4. Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: Goulbourne 3, Adams, Rouse. Att: 1,068

Widnes 4 Wakefield 26

Widnes Vikings: Try: Ashton. Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Fenworthy 2, Davis, McLaren. Goals: Davis 5. Att: 1,818

Workington 20 Featherstone 24

Workington Town: Tries: Baildon, Cumor, Fatnowna. Goals: Bethwaite 4. Featherstone Rovers: Tries: Gary H Price, Gleadhill, Summers. Goals: Fox 5. Dropped goals: Fox 2. Att: 1,203

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	9	8	1	0	257	83	17
Huddersfield	8	7	0	1	240	100	14
Wakefield	8	5	1	2	167	150	11
Whitehaven	8	4	1	3	149	160	9
Dewsbury	8	4	0	4	138	177	8
Keighley	8	3	1	4	180	151	7
Hull KR	9	3	1	5	178	183	7
Featherstone	8	2	1	5	137	171	5
Workington	8	2	0	6	134	175	4
Swinton	8	2	0	6	110	204	4
Widnes	8	2	0	6	104	238	4

Second division

Batley 18 Hunslet 14

Batley Bulldogs: Tries: Simpson 2, Cass. Goals: Price 3. Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Flowers, Pryce. Goals: Booth 2, Walker. Att: 937

Doncaster 28 Leigh 44

Doncaster Dragons: Tries: Morgan 2, Elvidge, Kilpatrick, Senior. Goals: Senior 4. Leigh Centurions: Tries: Purtill 3, Ingram 2, Gunning, Veikoso. Goals: Purtill 8. Att: 813.

Prescot 14 Bramley 34

Prescot Panthers: Tries: Bridge, Grant, Thornburn. Goal: Thornburn. Bramley: Tries: W Freeman 3, Brown, Cook, Creasser. Goals: Creasser 5. Att: 312

York 72 Barrow 8

York: Tries: Fitzgerald 2, Pallister 2, Ball, C Brown, Cain, Chapman, Green, Hayes, Hopcutt, Johnson, Smith. Goals: Green 6, Fitzgerald 4. Barrow Braves: Try: Atkinson. Goals: Marwood 2. Att: 513

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Carlisle	7	6	0	1	190	78	12
Leigh	8	6	0	2	228	166	12
* Rochdale	7	6	0	1	181	134	12
Lancashire L	8	6	0	2	212	166	12
Batley	8	5	0	3	278	143	10
Hunslet	7	4	0	3	235	120	8
York	8	3	0	5	215	200	6
Bramley	6	2	1	3	119	155	5
Barrow	8	2	0	6	152	287	4
Prescot	8	1	0	7	98	276	2
Doncaster	9	0	1	8	131	314	1

** not including last night's match*

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Lock Lane 15 Wigan St Patrick's 12; Mayfield 10 West Hull 33. First division: East Leeds 12 Walney Central 32. Second division: Milford 24 Normanton 20; York Acorn 23 Ovenden 12

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finals: Dudley Hill 26 Askam 4; Ellenborough 30 Skirlaugh 9

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Hull Kingston Rovers 32 Salford 4

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Cronulla 18 Adelaide 28; Hunter 36 Perth 16; Auckland 24 Canterbury 38; Canberra 40 North Queensland 16

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): St George 8 Western Suburbs 24; Gold Coast 24 Sydney City 34; Illawarra 16 Parramatta 23; Balmain 9 North Sydney 7; Manly-Warringah 22 Newcastle 8; South Sydney 24 South Queensland 20

Edwards, of Great Britain, right, throws Helling, of Germany, during their match at the British Open judo championships in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Mike Scott. Report, page 29

CRICKET

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Cardiff (both one day): Saturday: Glamorgan 242-8 (M P Maynard 62), Welsh Minor Counties 158-6. Glamorgan win by 84 runs. Yesterday: Glamorgan 312-4 (S P James 90, A Dale 84, H Morris 77), Welsh Minor Counties 217-3 (M J Powell 60). Glamorgan win by 95 runs

DRAKES HUDDERSFIELD LEAGUE, Section A: Holmfirth 159-9 Scholes 163-5; Linthwaite 121-9 Broad Oak 122-5; Marsden 138-9 Elland 238-8; Honley 223-6 Lascelles Hall 192-8; Skelmanthorpe 188-8 Shepley 184-4; Meltham 213-2 Kirkburton 209-8; Slaithwaite 210-8 Thongsbridge 212-5.

VAUX TYNESIDE SENIOR LEAGUE: Consett 218-6 Whickham 175-9; Burnopfield 212-5 Lintz 180; Greenside 207 Ryton 210-4; Sacriston 204-5 Annfield Plain 151; Blaydon 208-7 South Moor 131

MURRAY SMITH & CO CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: A division: Alsager 114 Didsbury 116-5; Nantwich 187-8 Bowdon 188-1; Grappenhall 228-6 Heaton Mersey 169-7; Poynton 133 Warrington 136-4; Upton 196-5 Toft 168; Macclesfield 188-7 Widnes 192-5.

BOWERS GROUP BRADFORD LEAGUE: First division: Drighlington 164-5 Brighouse 165-3; Bradford and Bingley 226-7 East Bierley 168-8; Idle 185-7 Spen Victoria 184; Pudsey St Lawrence 163-8 Hanging Heaton 132-9; Undercliffe 246-3 Baildon 142-5; Windhill 178-8 Farsley 179-1

LITTLEWOODS LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT: Hightown 101 Birkenhead Park 102-2; Huyton 132 Chester Boughton Hall 133-7; Neston 183-8 New Brighton 158; Newton-le-Willows 184 Northern 198-5; Northop Hall 165 Bootle 166-6; St Helens Rec 191-7 Southport and Birkdale 193-5; Sefton 171-8 Leigh 173-4; Oxton 186-1 Wallasey 188-6; Liverpool 229-4 Wigan 230-3

WILLIAM YOUNGER NORTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Barrow 238-4 Carnforth 207-8; Vickers Sports 127-8 Cleator 131-1; Haverigg 168-7 Dalton 170-3; Whitehaven 197-8 Furness 194-8; Lindal 167-9 Millom 170-5; Penrith 245-4 Ulverston 183-9; Vickerstown 174-7 Carlisle 158-7; Workington 169 Askam 79-9

NORTH STAFFS & SOUTH CHESHIRE: First division: Stafford 192-7 Audley 193-4; Cheadle 109 Bignall End 112-2; Knypersley 230-4 Elworth 152; Leek 178-6 Crewe 133-8; Little Stoke 280-4 Newcastle and H 132-4; Ashcombe Park 199-6 Longton 202-5; Stone 211-6 Moddershall 214-6.

VAUX RIBBLESDALE LEAGUE: Senior division: Clitheroe 236-5 Baxenden 122; Blackburn Northern 102 Read 108-0; Cherry Tree 150 Great Harwood 153-4; Earby 127-9 Whalley 61; Oswaldtwistle 163-8 Edenfield 166-2; Padiham 223-5 Barnoldswick 227-1; Ribblesdale W 111 Settle 114-6

CYCLING

BELGIUM: Liège-Bastogne-Liège World Cup classic (262km): 1, M Bartoli (It) 7hr 19:28min; 2, L Jalabert (Fr) at 8sec behind; 3, G Colombo (It) 19sec; 4, L Leblanc (Fr); 5, M Sciandri (GB); 6, J Museeuw (Bel); 7, B Zberg (Switz); 8, M Pantani (It); 9, L Madouas (Fr); 10, M Gianetti (Switz) all same time; 22, C Boardman (GB) at 31sec

OTHER ROAD RACES: Steve Taylor Memorial (Gloucester, 92 miles): 1, J Bayfield (Controlware RT) 3hr 31min 0sec; 2, L Davis (Gloucester City CC) same time; 3, P Wilkes (Giant RT) at 1 35. Catford CC (Benenden, Kent, 67.5 miles): 1, M Daly (Colourtech RT) 2 47 00; 2, G Baker (Condor Cycles RT) same time; 3, D Cook (Middridge CRT) at 1 35. St Helens CRC (Ormskirk, 64 miles): 1, M Harrison (Tunstall Wheelers) 2 27 35; 2, M Bell (unattached) at 5sec; 3, S Stoneman (CC Lancashire) at 8sec. Icknield RC (Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, 64 miles): 1, D Baker (Welwyn Wheelers) 2:26:00; 2, A Wright (Rockingham Forest Wheelers); 3, D Oakley (Twickenham CC) both same time

TIME TRIALS: Winners: Bath RC hilly (Bradfield, Berkshire, 50 miles): A Wilkinson (Adidas-SciCon) 1hr 59min 54sec (course record). Kenton RC two-up (Hemel Hempstead, 30 miles): C Roshier and P Holdsworth (Hounslow and District Wheelers) 1 07 41. Coventry Olympic CC hilly (Marton, Warwickshire, 26 miles): W Moore (Leo RC) 59 27. Elite CC (Bulphan, Essex, 25 miles): S Yates (Team Clean) 51:51 (course and event record). GS Metro (Dudley, Tyne and Wear, 25 miles): H Walker (GS Metro) 52 47. West Suffolk Wheelers (Bury St Edmunds, 25 miles): K Murray (Army TTT) 53 06. Cleveland Wheelers three-up (Crathorne, North Yorkshire, 25 miles): Stockton Wheelers (I Murray, S Whitwell, D Howes) 54 05. Yorkshire RC (Baldersby, North Yorkshire, 25 miles): A Gates (Team Rapide) 54 14. Icknield RC (Tempsford, Bedfordshire, 25 miles): A Worthington (VC St Raphael) 54 23. New Brighton CC (Broxton, 25 miles): J Howard (Merseyside Wheelers) 54 29. Macclesfield Wheelers (Goostrey, 25 miles): M Elworthy (Manchester Tri Club) 55 25. Bournemouth Arrow CC (Ringwood, 25 miles): S Ambrosini (MCS Wightlink) 56 13. St Austell Wheelers (Tresillian, Cornwall, 25 miles): C O'Neill (Camel Valley CC) 57 45 (course record). Fife CA (Freuchie, 25 miles): B Blott (Deeside Thistle RC) 57:59. Caithness CC hilly (Loch Calder, 24 miles): A Wright (Sandy Wallace Cycles) 55 00 (course record). Kettering Amateur CC hilly (Raunds, 22 8 miles): D Sweeney (Rockingham Forest Wheelers) 50 38 (course record). West Pennine RC hilly (Holcombe, 16 5 miles): T Horton (Halifax RC) 41:22

SCHOOLS SPORT

Cricket

Aldenham 143 * Haberdashers' Aske's 146-2; Blundells 195-6 * Exeter 198-2 (I Gamble 102 not out); * Brighton Coll 251-3 (P J S Spencer 100) Seaford 200-7; Chelsfield Park 161-5 dec * Sevenoaks 162-4; Cranbrook 133 * Tonbridge II 134-9; * Epsom 195 Hurstpierpoint 196-4; QEGS Blackburn 366-9 dec * Woodhouse Grove 114-9; * St George's, Weybridge 207 Eton 188; * Uppingham 227-7 dec Bishop's Stortford Coll 112; Wisbech 77 * Wellingborough 78-4

Football

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England Under-15 0 France Under-15 0 (at Old Trafford). English Girls Shield: Semi-final: Sutton 0 Brighton 1. McKee Trophy: Final: Hackney 1 Islington 2. London Cup (Under-15): Semi-final: Inner London 2 Sussex 2 (aet, Sussex win on penalties). Inter-county match: Kent 0 Middlesex 3. Woodward Cup: Semi-final: Bolton 1 Liverpool 2

Gymnastics

CHELMSFORD: National under-11 championships: Boys: 1, Ocklynge Junior, Eastbourne; 2, Coppice Primary; 3, Tyrrells Junior, Chelmsford. Girls: 1, Marist Convent Sunninghill; 2, Bromley; 3, Charville Junior, Hillingdon. Mixed: 1, Newlaithes Junior, Carlisle; 2, Coppice; 3, Fairholme Junior, Bedfont

Rugby league

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England Under-16 38 France Under-16 22 (at East Leeds Stadium)

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bath 40 Orrell 14

Bath: Tries: Peters 2, Adebayo, Callard, Méndez, Ojomoh. Cons: Catt 4, Callard. Orrell: Tries: Hope, Lyon. Cons: Hitchmough 2

Bristol 26 London Irish 38

Bristol: Tries: Breeze, Corkery, Hull, Jones. Cons: Burke 3. London Irish: Tries: Humphreys 2, Fulcher, Hennessy, Spicer, Woods. Con: O'Shea. Pens: Humphreys 2

Gloucester 11 Harlequins 27

Gloucester: Try: Benton. Pens: Mapletoft 2. Harlequins: Tries: Lacroix, O'Leary, Williams. Cons: Lacroix 3. Pens: Lacroix 2.

Leicester 22 Saracens 18

Leicester: Try: penalty try. Con: J Liley. Pens: J Liley 5. Saracens: Tries: Ebongalame, P Wallace, Pienaar. Pen: Lynagh.

West Hartlepool 17 Northampton 57

West Hartlepool: Tries: Silva 2. Cons: C John 2. Pen: C John. Northampton: Tries: Allen 2, Cassell 2, Townsend 2, Beal, Merlin, Thorneycroft. Cons: Hepher 6

Yesterday

Wasps 36 Sale 10

Wasps: Tries: Greenstock, Henderson, Logan, Roiser. Cons: Rees 2. Pens: Rees 3. Dropped goal: King. Sale: Try: Beim. Con: Hadley. Pen: Mannix.

(at Loftus Road)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	20	16	1	3	617	369	33
Leicester	20	14	0	6	568	362	28
Bath	19	13	1	5	679	347	27
Harlequins	18	13	0	6	674	346	26
Sale	19	12	1	6	535	396	25
Northampton	19	10	0	9	459	388	20
Gloucester	19	10	0	9	408	473	20
Saracens	19	9	1	9	443	398	19
Bristol	20	7	0	13	392	588	14
London Irish	18	5	0	13	417	595	10
W Hartlepool	20	3	0	17	347	742	6
Orrell	20	2	0	18	280	815	4

LEADING SCORERS: 258: G Rees (Wasps: 2 tries, 40 conversions, 56 penalty goals). 231: M Mapletoft (Gloucester: 5t, 22c, 49pg, 5 dropped goals). 196: J Callard (Bath, 3t, 41c, 33pg). 188: J Liley (Leicester; 3t, 24c, 42pg). 184: D Humphreys (London Irish: 3t, 20c, 40pg, 3dg). 166: P Burke (Bristol: 2t, 24c, 36pg). 152: T Lacroix (Harlequins: 2t, 23c, 29pg, 3dg). 135: S Mannix (Sale, 6t, 15c, 25pg). 129: P Grayson (Northampton: 1t, 14c, 28pg, 4dg). 108: C John (West Hartlepool, 3t, 11c, 23pg). Tries: 13: A Adebayo (Bath), D O'Leary (Harlequins). 12: S John (West Hartlepool). 11: T Beim (Sale). 10: J Guscott (Bath). 9: H Harries (Harlequins), J Sleightholme (Bath), D Tiueti (Bristol). 8: K Logan (Wasps), S Roiser (Wasps), Leicester penalty tries.

Second division

Bedford 14 London Scottish 28

Bedford: Tries: Offiah, Whetstone. Cons: Rayer 2. London Scottish: Tries: E Jackson, Milligan, Tarbuck. Cons: Steele 2. Pens: Steele 2. Dropped goal: Steele

Blackheath 27 Waterloo 48

Blackheath: Tries: M Griffiths 3, Howard. Cons: Braithwaite 2. Pen: Braithwaite. Waterloo: Tries: Wolfenden 2, Woolf 2, Bruce, Mullins. Cons: Griffiths 6. Pens: Griffiths 2.

Coventry 33 Moseley 18

Coventry: Tries: Eves, McAdam, Patten. Cons: Harris 3. Pens: Harris 3. Dropped goal: Gallagher. Moseley: Tries: Binns, Cockle. Con: Le Bas. Pens: Le Bas 2

Nottingham 44 Rugby 10

Nottingham: Tries: Hall 3, Brennan, Bygrave, Dawson. Cons: Evans 4. Pens: Evans 2. Rugby: Tries: Barr, Saunders

Richmond 55 Wakefield 22

Richmond: Tries: Fallon 3, Brown 2, Clarke, Codling, Mason, S Quinnell. Cons: Mason 5. Wakefield: Tries: Jackson, Massey, White. Cons: Jackson 2. Pen: Jackson.

Rotherham 21 Newcastle 45

Rotherham: Tries: Heaselgrave 2. Con: Moffitt. Pens: Moffitt 3. Newcastle: Tries: Andrew, Archer, Bates, Bentley, Lam, Tuigamala, penalty try. Cons: Andrew 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	21	18	2	1	952	410	38
Newcastle	19	16	1	2	1057	289	33
Coventry	20	15	1	4	690	347	31
Bedford	21	15	0	6	710	452	30
L Scottish	20	11	0	9	512	474	22
Rotherham	20	10	0	10	495	552	20
Wakefield	20	9	0	11	453	528	18
Moseley	21	8	0	13	444	724	16
Blackheath	21	7	0	14	401	627	14
Waterloo	19	6	0	13	414	566	12
Rugby	21	3	0	18	305	1015	6
Nottingham	21	2	0	19	344	793	4

LEADING SCORERS: 315: S Mason (Richmond: 10 tries, 83 conversions, 33 penalty goals). 266: R Andrew (Newcastle; 6t, 82c, 23pg, 1 dropped goal). 249: J Steele (London Scottish, 5t, 37c, 46pg, 4dg). 238: M Rayer (Bedford, 7t, 67c, 23pg). 226: J Harris (Coventry: 4t, 45c, 33pg, 5dg). 178: M Jackson (Wakefield, 4t, 28c, 33pg, 1dg). 159: R Le Bas (Moseley, 3t, 21c, 34pg). 137: C Braithwaite (Blackheath, 2t, 23c, 24pg, 3dg). 110: J Bentley (Newcastle, 22t). 105: S Quinnell (Richmond: 21t). Tries: 22: Bentley. 21: Quinnell. 20: J Fallon (Richmond). 17: G Armstrong (Newcastle), A Smallwood (Coventry). 14: D O'Mahony (Moseley). 13: B Whetstone (Bedford). 12: A McAdam (Coventry), G Easterby (Rotherham), T Simpson (Newcastle)

Third division

Clifton 13 London Welsh 15

Clifton: Tries: Craven, Hendrick. Pen: O'Sullivan. London Welsh: Tries: Vines, Herbert. Con: Raymond. Pen: Raymond.

Exeter 45 Liverpool St H 14

Exeter: Tries: Maunder 2, Dixon 2, Armstrong, Turner, Woodman. Cons: Green 2. Pens: Green 2. Liverpool St Helens: Tries: Eldoy 2. Cons: Brett 2

Harrogate 29 Havant 11

Harrogate: Tries: Farrar, Hassall, Hopkinson, Morley, Simpson. Cons: Zoing 2. Havant: Try: Firkin. Pen: Rushen. Dropped goal: Firkin

Lydney 15 Morley 25

Lydney: Pens: Morris 5. Morley: Tries: Shepherd 2, Grayshon, Tiffen. Con: Grayshon. Pen: Grayshon

Reading 17 Rosslyn Park 12

Reading: Try: Hart. Pens: Dance 4. Rosslyn Park: Pens: Holder 4

Walsall 35 Redruth 25

Walsall: Tries: Coleman, Rose. Cons: Mills 2. Pens: Mills 7. Redruth: Tries: Osborne, Saumi, Wilkins. Cons: Saumi 2. Pens: Saumi 2.

Wharfedale 23 Otley 15

Wharfedale: Tries: Buckroyd 2, Lawn, Mounsey. Pen: Mounsey. Otley: Tries: A Hargreaves, penalty try. Con: Rutledge. Pen: Rutledge

Yesterday

Leeds 34 Fylde 0

Leeds: Tries: Green 2, Ainscough, Cawthorne, Stephens. Cons: Tupulato 3. Pen: Tupulato

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fylde	28	22	1	5	754	424	45
Leeds	27	21	0	6	1043	412	42
Exeter	26	21	0	5	806	391	42
Morley	26	18	0	8	723	517	36
Reading	26	16	1	9	812	563	33
Harrogate	26	16	0	10	720	513	32
Wharfedale	26	15	0	11	619	538	30
Rosslyn Park	26	14	0	12	511	522	28
Otley	27	13	0	14	677	666	26
Lydney	27	12	0	15	600	688	24
L Welsh	28	12	0	16	599	700	24
Liverpool St H	26	8	0	18	609	664	16
Walsall	26	8	0	18	572	906	16
Redruth	28	7	0	21	512	1032	14
Havant	27	6	0	21	502	839	12
Clifton	28	4	0	24	467	1261	8

LEADING SCORERS: 365: S Gough (Fylde: 7 tries, 54 conversions, 72 penalty goals, 2 dropped goals). 307: R Mills (Walsall: 1t, 37c, 74pg, 2dg). 285: C Raymond (London Welsh: 6t, 36c, 54pg, 7dg). 278: G Ainscough (Leeds: 11t, 38c, 49pg), P Rutledge (Otley: 8t, 56c, 42pg). 275: P Morris (Lydney: 3t, 31c, 66pg). 264: A Green (Exeter 4t, 50c, 45pg, 3dg). 257: J Dance (Reading: 5t, 59c, 38pg). 253: R Zoing (Harrogate 4t, 55c, 38pg, 3dg). 194: P Brett (Liverpool St Helens, 14t, 35c, 18pg). Tries: 20: M Kirkby (Otley). 18: M Preston (Fylde). 16: A Hodgson (Wharfedale). 15: M Appleson (Leeds). 14: Brett. 13: T Lewsey (London Welsh), G Spencer (Reading), S Tuipulotu (Leeds), B Wade (Morley), M Woodman (Exeter)

Fourth division north

Hereford 10 Birmingham/S 52
Nuneaton 28 Manchester 40
Sandal 28 Preston Grass 13
Sheffield 9 Worcester 14
Stourbridge 57 Stoke-on-T 15
Winnington Park 36 Lichfield 25

POSTPONED: Aspatria v Kendal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	25	22	3	0	787	375	47
Birmingham	25	18	0	7	695	386	36
Preston Grass	24	16	2	6	516	338	34
Manchester	25	16	1	8	750	483	33
Sandal	23	14	1	8	544	471	29
Stourbridge	24	13	1	10	635	534	27
Winnington P	24	13	1	10	597	505	27
Sheffield	23	10	2	11	427	437	22
Aspatria	22	9	1	12	570	599	19
Kendal	22	8	1	13	486	405	17
Nuneaton	25	8	1	16	454	624	17
Lichfield	23	7	0	16	419	664	14
Hereford	24	4	0	20	265	885	8
Stoke-on-T	25	2	0	23	370	809	4

Fourth division south

Askeans 5 Newbury 74
Camberley 32 High Wycombe 17
Charlton Park 24 Plymouth 39
Cheltenham 10 Met Police 17
North Walsham 12 Barking 14
Tabard 30 Berry Hill 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	23	23	0	0	1073	282	46
Henley	24	19	1	4	743	440	39
Barking	24	15	1	8	699	443	31
Plymouth	25	13	3	9	709	548	29
Cheltenham	23	14	1	8	507	364	29
Met Police	23	14	1	8	594	479	29
Camberley	23	13	2	8	625	479	28
Tabard	23	9	3	11	451	485	21
Weston-s-M	23	9	0	14	338	434	18
Nth Walsham	24	8	1	15	383	570	17
Berry Hill	23	8	0	15	367	605	16
H Wycombe	23	7	1	15	502	629	15
Charlton Pk	24	3	1	20	324	1069	7
Askeans	23	1	1	21	294	842	3

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham 15 Salisbury 25; Gloucester Old Boys 18 Matson 17; Maidenhead 18 Launceston 16; St Ives 10 Camborne 8; Torquay 26 Barnstaple 20

MIDLANDS: First division: Belgrave 30 Wolverhampton 17; Broadstreet 7 Whitchurch 6; Burton 29 Westleigh 9; Camp Hill 8 Syston 11; Derby 30 Stockwood Park 28; Hinckley 79 Stafford 17; Leamington 10 Scunthorpe 32; Leighton Buzzard 13 Mansfield 7

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians 16 West Park Bramhope 8; New Brighton 23 Macclesfield 6; Sedgley Park 27 Broughton Park 10; Stockton 43 Bridlington 10; Tynedale 24 Bradford and Bingley 13.

CIS county championship

Final

Cumbria 21 Somerset 13

Cumbria: Tries: Bell, Milnes. Con: Scott. Pens: Scott 3. Somerset: Tries: King, Rees. Pen: Edmonds

(at Twickenham)

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW 1997-98: Southern area: Pool one: Cornwall, Sussex; Eastern Counties. Pool two: Dorset and Wiltshire; Gloucestershire; Hertfordshire; Berkshire. Pool three: Hampshire, Kent; Surrey; Buckinghamshire. Pool four: Devon, Middlesex; Oxfordshire; Somerset. Northern area: Pool one: Cumbria, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire, Warwickshire; Durham. Pool two: Leicestershire, Cheshire; North Midlands, Lancashire. Pool three: Yorkshire; East Midlands, Northumberland, Staffordshire

CIS Under-21 county championship

Final

Dorset and Wilts 3 Yorkshire 27

Dorset and Wiltshire Under-21: Pen: Laycock. Yorkshire Under-21: Tries: Kirkby 2, Hyde, Harrison. Cons: Dixon 2. Pen: Dixon.

(at Twickenham)

International match

France Youth 22 England Colts 18

(at Le Puy)

Welsh League

First division

Bridgend 49 Caerphilly 15

Bridgend: Tries: Forster 2, Bradshaw, Ellis, G Thomas, Greenaway, L Davies, P Jones, Walker. Cons: Durston, G Thomas. Caerphilly: Tries: Duly, Starr. Con: Davey. Pen: Davey

Cardiff 43 Dunvant 19

Cardiff: Tries: P Booth 2, Walker 2, G Jones, Howley, Wakeford. Cons: J Davies 4. Pens: J Hewlett 2. Dunvant: Tries: E Harris, M Harris, Sponder. Cons: M Thomas, S Morgan.

Ebbw Vale 7 Pontypridd 47

Ebbw Vale: Try: Marshall. Con: Hayward. Pontypridd: Tries: Lloyd 2, Ford, J Lewis, Manley, Paul John, Spiller. Cons: Cormack 3. Pens: Cormack 2.

Neath 38 Newport 8

Neath: Tries: P Williams 2, Jones, D Morris, Evans, Higgs. Cons: Case 3, Evans. Newport: Try: G Smith. Pen: Curtis

Newbridge 31 Swansea 24

Newbridge: Tries: Derrick, Gwilym, J Williams, Phillips, R Williams. Cons: J Williams 3. Swansea: Tries: Appleyard 2, A Harris, Niblo. Cons: A Thomas, A Williams

Treorchy 25 Llanelli 55

Treorchy: Tries: Gilbey, Lewis, Orrell, Wintle. Con: K Matthews. Pen: Eggar. Llanelli: Tries: Proctor 3, C Warlow 2, Jenkins 2, S Jones, penalty try. Cons: C Warlow 4, N Boobyer

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Pontypridd	18	16	0	2	718	363	89	16	48
Swansea	18	12	0	6	723	343	106	20	44
Llanelli	19	13	2	4	685	320	95	13	41
Cardiff	18	12	1	5	639	462	83	10	35
Bridgend	17	9	1	7	541	369	71	10	29
Neath	18	8	0	10	447	479	64	8	24
Newport	18	9	2	7	454	539	60	4	24
Ebbw Vale	19	10	2	7	352	482	39	2	24
Dunvant	19	8	2	9	454	560	59	4	22
Caerphilly	19	2	0	17	344	660	47	8	12
Treorchy	19	3	0	16	355	710	47	3	9
Newbridge	20	4	0	16	328	853	41	0	8

Second division

Abertillery 3 Aberavon 34

Abertillery: Pen: Withers. Aberavon: Tries: I Hughes 3, Merrott, R Morris, Stalk. Cons: Bowl 2.

Bonymaen 43 Blackwood 10

Bonymaen: Tries: P John 3, Alvis, Beynon, M John, W Thomas. Cons: Roberts 4. Blackwood: Tries: Lewis, Roberts

Cross Keys 64 Ystradgynlais 0

Cross Keys: Tries: Erskine 2, Bebb, Bushell, K Griffin, Kelly, Nicholls, Ovey, Reid, Stroud. Cons: Bebb 7

Llandovery 81 Abercynon 0

Llandovery: Tries: Rowlands 4, E Lewis 2, James 2, D Richards, J Griffiths, M Lewis, P Jones, Simpson. Cons: Simpson 8

Pontypool 24 Maesteg 28

Pontypool: Tries: Heakin 2, Lawrence. Cons: M Jones 3. Pen: M Jones. Maesteg: Tries: Flay, G Jones, N Thomas. Cons: J Richards 2. Pens: J Richards 3.

Cardiff Inst 62 SW Police 45

Cardiff Institute: Tries: Wagstaff 3, A Davies, Lewis, Sage, Shorney, Tremain, Vobe, Wall. Cons: Savastano 6. South Wales Police: Tries: Tatchell 2, Andrews, D Thomas, Hornburrow, Legge, Rhys. Cons: J Price 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Cross Keys	22	18	0	4	696	346	96	14	50
Llandovery	20	15	0	5	654	258	98	18	48
Aberavon	20	14	1	5	639	269	96	18	47
Abertillery	22	13	0	9	404	385	55	6	32
Bonymaen	22	11	1	10	474	473	65	8	31
Cardiff Inst	20	9	1	10	538	515	80	11	30
SW Police	21	11	1	9	521	506	77	7	30
Pontypool	21	10	2	9	497	403	65	7	29
Maesteg	22	9	0	13	476	517	53	7	25
Blackwood	22	7	0	15	358	588	44	3	17
Abercynon	21	4	0	17	302	815	40	4	10
Ystradgyn	19	2	0	17	243	727	29	1	5

THIRD DIVISION: Builth Wells 12 Merthyr 21; Mountain Ash 3 Llanharan 22; Penarth 12 Tondu 53; Pyle 19 Tenby Utd 34; Rumney 8 Narberth 11; Tredegar 70 Kenfig Hill 7.

SRU Tennents 1556 Cup

Quarter-finals

Boroughmuir 42 Watsonians 29

Boroughmuir: Tries: Aitken 3, Beveridge 2, McLean. Cons: Aitken 3. Pens: Aitken 2. Watsonians: Tries: Burns, Giles, Kerr, Mayer. Cons: D Hodge 3. Dropped goal: D Hodge

Kirkcaldy 33 Dundee HSFP 18

Kirkcaldy: Tries: Dower, Ferguson, Gilmour, McKenzie. Cons: J Mitchell 2. Pens: J Mitchell 3. Dundee HSFP: Tries: Longstaff, Paterson. Con: Paterson. Pens: Paterson 2.

Peebles 16 Heriot's FP 18

Peebles: Try: Rutherford. Con: Rutherford. Pens: Rutherford 3. Heriot's FP: Pens: Ross 5. Dropped goal: Ross

West of Scotland 23 Melrose 45

West of Scotland: Tries: A Bulloch, Barrett, J Craig. Con: Barrett. Pens: Barrett 2. Melrose: Tries: Moncreiff 2, Shepherd 2, Stark 2, R Brown. Cons: Shepherd 5.

SRU TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: Quarter-finals: Grangemouth 12 Ross High 29; Linlithgow 23 Biggar 33; Preston Lodge 19 Selkirk 27; Trinity Academicals 24 Hillhead/Jordanhill 23

SRU TENNENTS 1556 SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Aberdeen GSFP 24 Glenrothes 18; Edinburgh Academicals 16 Currie 23; Glasgow High/Kelvinside 42 Jed-Forest 37; St Boswells 12 Hawick 28

WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP: Final: Richmond 10 Saracens 13

Super 12 tournament

Otago 9 ACT 15

Otago Highlanders: Pens: Brown 3. Australian Capital Territory Brumbies: Tries: Gregan, Finnegan. Con: Knox. Pen: Knox.

(at Invercargill)

Auckland 63 Gauteng 22

Auckland Blues: Tries: Tonu'u 2, Z Brooke 2, Lalakai, Vidiri, Spencer, Mika, Jones, Stanley. Cons: Spencer 5. Pen: Spencer. Gauteng Lions: Tries: Brosnahan, Roux, Mulder. Cons: Roux 2. Pen: Roux

(at Eden Park, Auckland)

Canterbury 26 Natal 26

Canterbury Crusaders: Tries: Mayerhofler, penalty try. Cons: Mehrtens 2. Pens: Mehrtens 4. Natal Sharks: Tries: Muller, Van Heerden, Andrews. Honiball. Cons: Honiball 3

(at Christchurch)

NSW 16 Queensland 26

New South Wales Waratahs: Try: penalty try. Con: Burke. Pens: Burke 3. Queensland Reds: Tries: Connors, Tune, Smith. Con: Eales. Pens: Eales 3

(at Sydney)

N Transvaal 34 Waikato 27

Northern Transvaal Blue Bulls: Tries: Olivier 2, Bouwer, Van der Walt. Cons: Steyn 4. Pens: Steyn 2. Waikato Chiefs: Tries: Anglesey, Osbourne 52. Con: Cooper. Pens: Cooper 5

(at Loftus Versfeld)

Wellington 59 Free State 30

Wellington Hurricanes: Tries: Cullen 3, O'Halloran, Umaga, Cooksley, Tolea, penalty try. Cons: Preston 3, Cunningham. Pens: Preston 3. Free State Cheetahs: Tries: Du Randt, Van Rensburg, Brink. Cons: De Beer 3. Pens: De Beer 3

(at Wellington)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bon	Pts
Auckland	7	6	1	0	272	176	4	30
Natal	7	5	1	1	268	202	5	27
ACT	8	5	0	3	267	219	6	26
Wellington	7	4	0	3	266	197	6	22
Gauteng	7	4	1	2	224	228	4	22
NSW	7	3	0	4	196	171	4	16
N Transvaal	8	2	2	4	191	258	4	16
Free State	8	3	0	5	229	275	2	14
Waikato	7	3	0	4	160	177	1	13
Canterbury	7	2	1	4	163	198	2	12
Otago	7	2	0	5	187	259	3	11
Queensland	8	2	0	6	180	240	2	10

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Agen 25 Grenoble 14; Perigueux 15 Dax 33; Nimes 13 Castres 17; Bourgoin 27 Toulouse 15; Béziers 25 Biarritz 9. Pool two: Pau 16 Brive 16; Perpignan 25 Toulon 6; Dijon 23 Paris UC 29; Montferrand 24 Narbonne 35; Colomiers 28 Bègles-Bordeaux 22

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Padova 35 L'Aquila 17; Livorno 31 San Dona 25; Milan 51 Rovigo 14; Treviso 32 Calvisano 7; Rome 59 Colleferro 6; Catania 13 Bologna 26.

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Fear is the key to Villeneuve's drive for success

MICHAEL CALVIN

meets a Formula One champion-in-waiting

An arrogant adrenalin junkie, they call him, a space cadet, a shock jock, a suicide case, but, at the start of a week in which Formula One returns to Imola, for the San Marino Grand Prix, ritually to confront the realities of mortality, it is not that easy to marginalise Jacques Villeneuve.

Already, three races into the season, there is an air of inevitablity about his accession to the title of world drivers' champion. He has seized the platform offered by such a status to challenge the fundamental tenets of a sport manipulated by a strange combination of contrition and commercialism.

He abhors the selective morality that dismisses the death of his friend, Roland Ratzenberger, and deifies Ayrton Senna, who lost his life 24 hours later on a weekend, in 1994, that irrevocably altered the shape of his sport.

He is prepared to articulate the unthinkable, to criticise the conventional wisdom that safety requires the emasculation of great circuits and encourages mediocrity, in men and machines. This does not make him popular, especially when such Formula One luminaries as Bernie Ecclestone and Damon Hill are preparing to testify at the manslaughter trial arising from Senna's death.

"Imola will be a circus," Villeneuve acknowledged, with a deep sigh. "All people will want to talk about there is tragedy. It's a recurring theme. Why can't we let people rest in peace? Of course I was affected by Imola '94, but that was not just because of Senna's death.

"I'm sad to say that, if only Roland had died that weekend, nothing would have been done. As soon as Ayrton died, they felt they had to react, or had to be seen to react. He was a huge figure, loved by millions and people felt his loss personally.

"Safety is a good thing, but not when it destroys what racing is all about. Imola is now one of the worst circuits, a disgusting track. They just put chicanes everywhere. It's safer, but it's not fun to drive. It's no good for racing.

"There's an awful political correctness about Formula One and anywhere you find political correctness, it changes the rules. Everyone keeps a straight face, or smiles and agrees with everything. I prefer to say what I think. I don't really care if I'm judged arrogant because of that. I don't force myself to say things to get a reaction. I say what I truly believe, deep down inside. There are not many drivers who are listened to, which is a shame because they are the guys who risk their lives."

Villeneuve's rationalisation of those risks is wilfully misinterpreted by apologists for a sanitised system. It suits some to characterise him as a callow youth, a speed freak, but the public, traditionally attuned to a racer's mentality, see behind the smokescreen.

On Saturday, more than 40,000 waited all day in the sand dunes of Zandvoort, west of Amsterdam, for a glimpse of him during a promotional trip by the Williams team. When he shuffled into view, a slight, almost Chaplinesque figure in blue overalls, they struck up an insistent chant of "Jacques, Jacques, Jacques".

Villeneuve is critical of moves to make tracks safer

He was touched by the response. As much as his blue-green eyes may glaze over at the mention of his late father, Gilles, he has claimed his constituency.

"People want to become racing drivers because, as kids, they see them as superheroes," he said. "You see them pushing their limits as human beings, overcoming their fears and you are just so impressed. If Formula One is to be a sport rather than a show, the stakes need to be high.

"Nobody is looking to kill themselves, that would be pure stupidity, but there needs to be that small sense of danger, that feeling that if you go one kilometre an hour quicker you are going to lose it. That's when it becomes mental. You can feel your body, feel the car getting light. When you are riding on that edge you are in a different world. Nothing else exists at all. All your being is dedicated to that moment. You are striving for perfection, in yourself and your car."

There may be a mystical sense of purpose to such sentiments, but they belie Villeneuve's fierce pragmatism. His attack on the proposed changes for 1998, which involve narrower cars and grooved tyres in an attempt to slow speeds, is measured and based on the experience of a test in Barcelona last week.

"What they are proposing scares me, because it is not going to be Formula One any more," he said. "It will destroy racing, as it exists. I know what I'm talking about, because I managed to use one of the new sets of tyres in Barcelona. It is a joke. It will not be pure any more. They might as well tell us to buy Formula Three cars and pretend it is Formula One. Everything will be levelled downwards. Anyone will be able to drive, because the mechanical and human limits will be so much lower.

"There will be no risk, no rush. There will be no precision in the driving. It will all be numb. You'll lose all control, basically. You'll just be along for the ride. That's a big mistake. At least this year, with the softer tyres, you have to reach inside yourself to find the strength to do a quick lap. But if they change the regulations for '98, the fun will disappear.

"It might be good for TV, because the times will be closer, but the mediocre drivers will be able to hide. They'll be closer to the good guys and the best won't really be needed. They'll be more suited to the real racing you get in IndyCars.

"Formula One must be the ultimate in motor sport and I'm in it to race, not just collect the money. It might be ten times safer than before, but what good is that if we are not doing something special?"

Cole industry puts fire into England youngsters

England Schools 0
France Schools 0

By John Goodbody

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

YOU can always tell when crowds are becoming vexed — they begin performing the Mexican wave. At Old Trafford on Saturday, the under-15 football international had become becalmed after 60 minutes of play. Most of the early enterprise had come from France, winners and hosts last month of the Montaigu tournament, which involved 32 nations.

England, eighth in that competition, began this Walkers Crisps international cautiously. Many of their passing movements were broken up, either through their own carelessness or by smart French interceptions.

Suddenly, the game became transformed with both teams pressing forward with rare purpose. There may not have been any goals — and it would have been a gross injustice to France if England had won — but at least the crowd of 35,300 returned home satisfied with the spectacle.

Jean-Pierre Marlans, the France national team trainer, analysed the change of mood. "The English organised themselves better and attempted more attacks, while our players lost some of their freshness," he said.

John Owens, who revels in his job as England team manager, saying that winning the National Lottery could not give him similar pleasure, accepted that England had been wary initially. "We knew the French had tremendous pace up front. Without trying to be too negative, we were aiming to stop them from scoring early on," he said.

Central to England's revival was the exciting industry of Joe Cole, who lay just behind the strikers and became increasingly influential as the game wore on: a deft dribble here, a crafty pass there.

BARRY GREENWOOD

Osman, of England, right, loses possession to Mexes, of France, at Old Trafford on Saturday

Like five other members of the England squad, Cole attends the Football Association's national school at Lilleshall. The French have an equivalent at Clairefontaine, 60 miles south of Paris, but it is restricted to youngsters from the capital. Boys attend lessons at a school until 3pm and are then coached at the residential centre.

The French do have two national schools football tournaments, but the network of fixtures that is such a feature of school sport in England only exists in a limited form. All the France squad on Saturday were linked with clubs, where they receive the bulk of their coaching.

In England, boys do receive training at the centres of excellence at professional clubs, but also play for their schools and districts. Owens said: "I think we have the best of both worlds, provided the boys do not play too much." By having schools matches across the age groups, players who may have been missed by professional clubs when they were younger can be spotted later.

Cole, 15, who lives near Camden Lock in north London, has already been spotted and is with West Ham United. "I just liked the club, the moment I first went to it. It is so friendly — not like some clubs, where you walk along a corridor and no-one knows you," he said.

Against France, Cole roused his team. In the seventieth minute, his drive was kicked off the line and, from the corner, Leon Osman had another shot stopped.

France nearly snatched victory in the 77th minute, when Cisse's shot hit a post with the ball rebounding straight to Bingham, the goalkeeper.

ENGLAND SCHOOLS: M Bingham, N Maley, C Hanson, J Cole, C McCready, C O'Brien (sub: G Strange, 40min), I Armstrong, S Fitcroft (sub: L Mike, 40), L Osman, M Standing (sub: P Burke, 60), S Warnock.

FRANCE SCHOOLS: G Gauglin, J F Dorothea, A Faget, G Givet, K Hatchi, P Mexes, H Ahamada, O Bonnin (sub, D Cisse, 40), D Deom (sub: Y Cavalli, 73), P Kamata, L Mathis

Referee: J Elwin

MacLaurin has clout to open fresh innings

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

The glorious weather that launched the cricket season has given way to dull skies, freezing winds and anguished hand-wringing about the future of the England team. However, unlike the start of the past umpteen seasons, there is something being done.

This year is the first under the businesslike structure put in place by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the retiring chief of Tesco, who has become chairman of the newly-constituted England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The ECB has taken over from the old Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), but is different in an important respect — it is a limited company whose board makes decisions, although it is owned by the 38 first-class and minor counties. The TCCB was essentially an agent for the counties and had to do their bidding.

This gives the ECB a great deal more power. It now owns the lucrative broadcasting and sponsorship contracts that bring in more than £30 million a year to cricket and controlling the purse-strings is a great way of ensuring that the changes you want to happen do happen.

> 'The fear is tinkering could render counties insolvent'

The finances of cricket are biased towards Lord's. The ECB has an annual income of around £40 million, essentially from staging Test matches and one-day internationals, although it also receives the television and attendance income from the NatWest Trophy and the knockout stages of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

The entire combined income of the 18 counties is less than half that of the ECB. The average crowd for Britannic Assurance county championship matches is only 800 a day, including county members, schoolchildren and the press. A couple of years ago, it was calculated that, on average, only 13 people a day paid on the gate to attend county matches at Grace Road, the home of Leicestershire, the county champions. To put it in perpective, the annual turnover of professional cricket in England and Wales is around £60 million, which is about £40 million less than the annual turnover of Manchester United.

None of the first-class counties could afford to stay in business if it were not for the levy that they receive from the ECB. This year, the payout will be £1 million per county and this is due to rise to £1.15 million for 1998, when the new deal with Vodafone to sponsor the England team kicks in.

"Will the county clubs be self-sufficient?" Cliff Barker, the deputy chief executive and finance director of the ECB, asked. "That is highly questionable in the foreseeable future."

Yet this year may well be the last when there is a flat fee. Lord MacLaurin wants a shake-up of the game, encouraging a higher standard at county level and an integration with club cricket similar to the way that club teams in Australia provide their best players to the Sheffield Shield inter-state competition. He and the other senior executives in English cricket are working on a "Blueprint for the Game", a probable radical overhaul of how cricket is run.

This could involve splitting the first-class game into two leagues, although Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, said yesterday that no decision had yet been taken. The plan would give greater incentives for finishing towards the top of the county championship or higher rewards for those playing in internationals. The fear is that any tinkering could render some of the weaker counties virtually insolvent.

As Barker put it, cricket is more a recreational game than a spectator sport in the United Kingdom and, as long as the county game suffers from declining crowds, it will be dependent on the ECB for its financial well-being and so will have to dance to the tune that Lord MacLaurin plays.

JASON NISSÉ

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CHANGING TIMES

SPEEDWAY

Stead saves his best for last

By Tony Hoare

GARRY STEAD won the richest race of his career on Saturday when the Bradford rider was given a £500 bonus for his victory in the final heat of the roses match against Belle Vue in the *Speedway Star* Cup northern section.

The bonus came from his sponsor, Impact Racing, whose generosity was prompted by the way that Stead, 25, a second-string rider, recovered from a poor start to overtake his team-mate, Joe Screen, Billy Hamill, the world champion, and Sam Ermolenko, the former world champion. Bradford won easily, 57-33, with Stead contributing 12 points to their total.

"My night's earnings combined with the cheque I received is the most I have ever earned in speedway," Stead said. "It was a real shock to receive something like that. I was knocked sideways and it is greatly appreciated."

Stead, who rode on loan at Sheffield last year, added: "It feels great. There have been a few people starting to wonder if I am out of my depth in the Elite League. Everything clicked together, it was a dream come true and I hope the rest of the season can be as good."

Bradford's victory keeps alive their chances of joining Coventry in the semi-finals and next Monday they travel to Wolverhampton needing at least a draw to progress.

Eastbourne scored a resounding 52-37 win over Peterborough on Saturday night to join Poole as the qualifiers from the southern section.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
Coventry v Arsenal (8.0)

Vauxhall Conference
Hednesford v Welling (7.45)
Stevenage v Rush & Diamonds (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Spennymoor; Hyde v Lancaster. First division: Ashton United v Bradford PA Ave; Farsley Celtic v Radcliffe. ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis v Maidenhead United; Croydon v Thame. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Brighton (at Ashton Gate, 2.0); Chelsea v Oxford United (at Kingstonian, 7.0); Queens Park Rangers v Tottenham (at Harrow Borough FC, 7.0); Swindon v Ipswich (2.0); Watford v Swansea (at Chesham United FC); West Ham v Charlton (at Upton Park, 2.0). PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Derby (7.15); Oldham v Stoke (7.0). First division: Aston Villa v Sheffield United (7.0); Leicester v Preston (7.0); Middlesbrough v Notts County (7.0); Port Vale v Blackpool (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Carlisle (7.0); Burnley v Hull (7.15); Mansfield v Shrewsbury (7.0). Third division: Wigan v Doncaster (7.0). OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB v Old Vaughanians. SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Final: Oxfordshire v Northumberland (at Oxford United FC, 7.0). Kent Cup: Final: Gravesham v Orpington (at Gillingham FC, 6.45)

CRICKET

Tetley's Shield
11.0, final day of four
EDGBASTON: England A v The Rest

University match
11.0, final day of three
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Brighton (2.0), Nottingham (2.10), Towcester (2.20)
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).
SPEEDWAY: Elite League Challenge: Wolverhampton v Ermolenko's Enigmas (7.30). Premier League Cup: Exeter v Oxford (7.30), Reading v Skegness (7.30)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Fourth division south: Newbury v Weston-super-Mare (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Commonwealth light-welterweight championship (vacant): Bernard Paul (Tottenham) v Felix Bwalya (Zambia) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green)
RACING: Folkestone (2.0), Pontefract (2.15), Chepstow (2.40)
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)

WEDNESDAY

CRICKET

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Chelmsford: Essex v Hampshire. Cardiff: Glamorgan v Warwickshire. Canterbury: Kent v Derbyshire. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Durham. Leicester: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire. Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire. The Oval: Surrey v Somerset. Hove: Sussex v Northamptonshire.
UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days): Fenner's: Cambridge University v Middlesex. The Parks: Oxford University v Yorkshire

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Sale v London Irish (7.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Halifax (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Catterick Bridge (2.0), Epsom (2.05), Perth (2.20).
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield).
SPEEDWAY: British under-21 championship: Final: King's Lynn (7.45). Speedway Star Cup: Poole v Eastbourne (7.30). Premier League Cup: Hull v Sheffield (7.30). Amateur League: Long Eaton and Wolverhampton v Exeter and Newport (at Long Eaton, 7.45)

THURSDAY

RACING: Beverley (2.10), Fontwell Park (2.20), Perth (2.0)
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Coventry (7.30). Premier League Cup: Sheffield v Hull (7.45)
TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Pontypridd v Neath (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Salford v Wigan (7.30). First division: Dewsbury v Swinton (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Carlisle (2.20), Sandown Park (2.05), Ascot (5.30), Ludlow (5.45), Perth (2.10), Taunton (5.35)
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Eastbourne (7.30), Peterborough v Coventry (7.30). Premier League Cup: Edinburgh v Newcastle (7.30), Oxford v Arena Essex (7.45). Amateur League: Belle Vue v Reading and Swindon (5.0)
TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bath v Sale; Gloucester v Bristol; Leicester v Harlequins; Northampton v Wasps (2.15); Orrell v Saracens; West Hartlepool v London Irish. Second division: Coventry v Bedford; Moseley v Rotherham; Newcastle v London Scottish; Richmond v Nottingham; Wakefield v Blackheath; Waterloo v Rugby. Third division: Clifton v Lydney; Fylde v London Welsh; Havant v Leeds; Liverpool St Helens v Harrogate; Morley v Redruth; Otley v Exeter; Reading v Wharfedale; Rosslyn Park v Walsall. Fourth division north: Birmingham/Solihull v Aspatria; Kendal v Sheffield; Lichfield v Hereford; Manchester v Stoke-on-Trent; Preston Grasshoppers v Winnington Park; Sandal v Stourbridge; Worcester v Nuneaton. Fourth division south: Barking v Tabard; Camberley v Berry Hill; Henley v Cheltenham; High Wycombe v Askeans; Met Police v North Walsham; Newbury v Plymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Charlton Park.
SWALEC CUP: Final: Cardiff v Swansea (at Cardiff Arms Park)

CRICKET

UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day): The Parks: British Universities v Yorkshire

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Amsterdam v London (7.0)
BOXING: European middleweight championship: Hussein Cheniff (Fr, holder) v Neville Brown (Burton) (at Swadlincote)
GOLF: Men's international: Scotland v France (at St Andrews). Helen Holm Scottish Open strokeplay championship (Portland and Royal Troon)
MOTOR RALLYING: Pirelli International Rally (at Carlisle)
RACING: Leicester (2.0), Ripon (2.05), Sandown Park (2.15), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.0), Market Rasen (2.10), Worcester (5.45)
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v Ipswich (7.30); Coventry v Swindon (7.30); Eastbourne v Belle Vue (7.30). Premier League Cup: Arena Essex v Oxford (8.0); Berwick v Glasgow (7.0); Stoke v Edinburgh (7.30)
TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Treorchy v Newport (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Sheffield (6.0); London v Leeds (6.35); Oldham v Halifax; St Helens v Castleford (at Anfield); Warrington v Paris Saint-Germain. First division: Featherstone v Widnes (3.20); Huddersfield v Workington (3.30); Wakefield v Keighley (3.30); Whitehaven v Hull Kingston Rovers (3.30). Second division: Barrow v Lancashire Lynx; Bramley v Carlisle; Hunslet v Doncaster (3.30); Leigh v York; Rochdale v Prescot

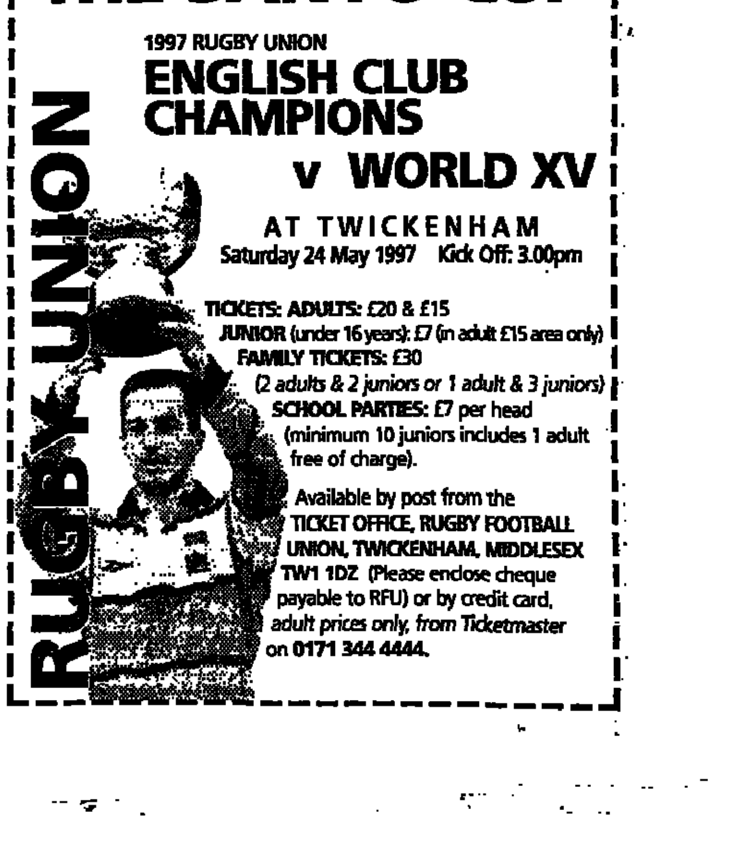
CRICKET

AXA LIFE LEAGUE (40 overs): Chelmsford: Essex v Hampshire. Cardiff: Glamorgan v Warwickshire. Canterbury: Kent v Derbyshire. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Durham. Leicester: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire. Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire. The Oval: Surrey v Somerset. Hove: Sussex v Northamptonshire

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Scottish Claymores v Rhein (at Murrayfield, 3.0)
GOLF: Men's international: Scotland v France (at St Andrews). Helen Holm Scottish Open strokeplay championship (at Portland and Royal Troon)
MOTOR RACING: British Formula Three championship (at Brands Hatch).
MOTOR RALLYING: Pirelli International Rally, (at Carlisle).
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (at Sheffield)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Glasgow v Stoke (6.30), Newcastle v Hull (6.30), Skegness v Reading (6.30). Amateur League: Lathallan v Berwick (2.30), Mildenhall v Ipswich and King's Lynn (3.30), Reading and Swindon v Ryde (IoW) (at Reading, 2.30)
TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at Manchester)

This week's football, page 32



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FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Runners up to 7 hours, 15 minutes, 42 secs

The Times concludes its coverage of the 1997 Flora London Marathon with the names of the competitors who finished inside 7 hours, 15 minutes and 42 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers to the race.

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Keep on running: The bright sunshine of marathon Sunday ensures that this lone runner casts a shadow on the London streets. Photograph: Karl Prouse

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EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

Unmissable West End theatre offer

The Times Live is a new entertainment service in association with First Call, the leading ticketing agency, which offers readers priority bookings, special offers and discounted tickets on a huge range of live events — from pop to classical concerts, opera to ballet, theatre and sporting events.

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Tickets are available throughout May and June for: ***Miss Saigon*** (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Tue matinees 3pm); ***Martin Guerre*** (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Thurs matinees 3pm); ***Cats*** (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Tues matinees 3pm) and ***Oliver*** (Mon-Thurs 7.30pm & Wed matinees 2.30pm). Prices are £32.50 each plus a £2.50 booking fee per ticket.

To apply, collect five differently numbered tokens from *The Times*, this week. Token 1 appears below right and tokens will appear every day until Friday. When you have all five, complete the application form that will appear in *The Times* on Friday with full booking details and send it with your payment to: *The Times* Live, West End Theatre Offer, P O Box 92, London, WC2H 9SU. Applications must arrive no later than Friday, May 2. Offer strictly subject to availability.

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CHANGING TIMES

Hard work and innovation are at the heart of economic revival, says **John Young**

From suits to turbines, they're flying the flag

During a turbulent century, Britain's economic status has changed from that of "the workshop of the world" to being just another advanced industrial nation competing in an ever-growing global market. There has been no lack of crises along the way, including two world wars, which left Europe economically on its knees.

Britain was notoriously slower than most other industrialised nations to adapt to changes in world trading conditions.

Lack of investment, outdated labour practices and a failure to acknowledge a more competitive market led to this country being tagged "the sick man of Europe".

For many years, the pundits were preoccupied with the *seemingly incurable deficit in the balance of payments*. We hear relatively little about this nowadays as the focus seems to be on inflation and interest *rates — but there is no room* for complacency.

Although the nation's foreign currency reserve and overseas investments are far stronger than a generation ago, in most months the balance sheet is in deficit. "Export or Die" may no longer be a fashionable slogan but it *is no less true than it was. The* annual Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement, announced today, are a reminder that hard work and imagination are at the heart of Britain's present economic revival. They are also a timely acknowledgement with a general election imminent that it is not politicians who deliver prosperity but clever engineers, designers, craftsmen and marketing *managers*.

> 'This country was called the sick man of Europe'

The numbers of applications in all three categories are well up on last year; export from 1,191 to 1,300; technology *from 254 to 278 and* environment from 116 to 146. But the number of awards increased only marginally: 110 in the export category compared with 107 last year and eight in environment as against six last year, while the 16 awards for technological achievement equal last year.

It may seem disappointing that the latter are only a third of the total in 1990, and that awards for environmental achievement appear to have made little progress since they were introduced in 1993. One explanation may be that the criteria have become stricter. Award rules stipulate that technology entries must have a practical application in industry and must be a commercial success. For environmental *awards the rules are still* tighter. Entries must offer major benefits *compared to existing products or processes* as well as being *commercially successful*.

Export achievement is more easily measured in terms of volume and earnings. Applicants are required to submit three years' figures to demonstrate how exports have increased between year one and year two, and the extent to which the increase has been *sustained in year three*.

Companies with a consistently high export performance but which cannot show a dramatic growth over three years *may* submit records of earlier performance.

This year's list of export award winners is eclectic. Among the big names are British Steel, Marks & Spencer, IBM United Kingdom Ltd, American-owned but fifth in the *Financial Times* list of top UK exporters; GEC and JCB, represented by subsidiary companies; and Toyota, one of the leaders of the new generation of Japanese investors.

But they are far outnumbered *by small companies* whose names are largely unknown. They are engaged in making everything from diving *suits* to wallpaper, from *sweets to sewing needles, from* gas turbines to children's books. Each has flown the flag for Britain and from today can fly its own flag of achievement.

Olympic swimmers at Atlanta chose Speedo products

Second-hand success

SELLING *second-hand* clothing to developing countries has produced a thriving business for **Lawrence M Barry & Co** in East London, *Rodney Hobson writes*.

Lawrence Barry, a partner in the company, says: "I was working in my father's company handling ropes for pulpmaking and I said we should move into second-hand clothes, but he was against it.

"He said that when I became captain of the ship I could do what I liked. So when I took over 12 years ago I started collecting clothing with four staff."

Mr Barry says: "In developing countries, spending £50 on a suit could be a week's wages. An office worker there can have a nice suit for a fiver and a shirt for £1." The company now employs more than 100 people and has a fleet of 20 lorries.

The popular Dr Martens shoes have brought a second export award for Airwair **Limited**, *the Rushden*, Northants, sales and marketing organisation of the Griggs group. Airwair began trading in 1988 and exports, which *now account for three quarters* of total sales, have rocketed since it won its first award in 1993.

Markets are worldwide, with the US taking one third of exports. A big increase in demand, the company's own marketing effort and increased production capacity are the reasons behind a £50 million increase in exports over the past three years.

Speedo International Limited, a maker of swimwear and beachwear, sells to 35 countries, mainly in Europe and Asia. Based at Nottingham, it is part of the Pentland sportswear group.

Speedo's international reputation has been enhanced by its sponsorship of 48 swimming federations. At the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, swimmers in the US, Australian and Chinese teams wore Speedo swimsuits.

EXPORT WINNERS

THE *following* have been granted The Queen's Award for Exports in 1997:

AGCO Limited Coventry: Agricultural tractors, and agricultural equipment.
AgriSense BCS Ltd. Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan: Biological products for insect pest *monitoring* and control.
Agrisystems (Overseas) Limited. Aylesbury, Bucks. Consulting and management services to agricultural enterprises, the rural *development sector and post-conflict resettlement*.
Airwair Limited. Rushden, Northants: Distribution of the Dr Martens brand of footwear
Alwayse Engineering Ltd. Birmingham: *Manufacture* of ball transfer units used to help the movement of goods in material and air cargo handling systems.
Aquion Ltd. Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Specialist diving drysuits for sport, military, and commercial use.
Astracast Plc. Birstall, West Yorkshire: Manufacture of coloured composite sinks.
Avro International Aerospace (a division of British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited). Stockport, Cheshire: BAe 146 civil aircraft and the new version, the Avro RJ.
Lawrence M Barry & Co. *London:* Export of second-hand clothing and shoes, all from UK sources.
Bartle Bogle Hegarty Limited. London: Advertising agency.
Bass Beers Worldwide Limited. Birmingham: The export *organisation of the Bass Group*, mainly beer.
Bionet Research Limited: Camelford, Cornwall: Research chemicals for screening and development in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical sectors.
Bisley Office Equipment Limited. Woking, Surrey: Office furniture such as systems furniture, desking and steel storage.
Blease Medical Equipment Limited. Chesham, Bucks: Anaesthetic equipment.
Borden Decorative Products Limited, Wallcoverings Division. Darwen, Lancashire: Fine printed wallcoverings for residential and commercial use.
Bridgeport Machines Limited. Leicester: Computer numerically controlled (CNC) horizontal and *vertical machining* centres, milling machines and lathes.
British Steel plc. London: The world's third largest steel maker.
Business Monitor International Ltd. London: Publisher of reports covering the political *risk* and economic prospects of emerging markets worldwide.
Camborne Holdings Limited. Mirfield, West Yorkshire: Wool fabric for office furniture.
The Chambers Candy Co Ltd. Halesowen: Quality gift confectionery.
Computational Dynamics Limited. London: Developer of STAR-CD, a multi-purpose thermofluids analysis software system used by engineers.
Concept Systems Limited. *Edinburgh: Data acquisition and* navigation systems for the oil, marine and defence industries.
Conren Limited. Wrexham: Epoxy resin, polyurethane and cementitious polymer based industrial floor, roof and wall coatings.
Contract Chemicals Limited. Prescot, Merseyside: Fine and intermediate chemicals; specialised organic chemicals for the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, photographic and detergent sectors.
Crestworth Trading Ltd t/a "Mathmos". London: Inventor and *manufacturer of the "Lava -lamp"*.
Davis & Dann Limited: South Ruislip, Middlesex: Household goods, toiletries and chemists' sundries.
James Dewhurst Limited, Manufacturing Divisions. *Accrington, Lancashire*: Woven and non-woven industrial reinforcement fabrics.
Electra Polymer & Chemicals Ltd. Tonbridge, Kent: Fine polymers and chemicals for the electronics industry.
Electrox, a Division of 600 UK Ltd. Letchworth, Hertfordshire: *Industrial* lasers for marking, cutting and welding.
Ellison Holdings plc. Keighley, West Yorkshire: Industrial fasteners such as circlips, retaining rings and spring washers.
ENTACO Ltd (*English Needle & Fishing Tackle Co Ltd*). Studley, Warwickshire: Hand-sewing needles, medical suture needles and commercial long-line fishing equipment.
Eurocast Bar Limited. *Loughborough*, Leicestershire: Foundry producing meehanite continuously cast iron bar and tube.
European Gas Turbines Ltd, Industrial Gas Turbine Group. Lincoln: Industrial gas turbines for power generation up to 50MW, oil *pumping* and gas compression up to 46000 HP.
Exley Publications Ltd. Watford, Herts. Publisher of childrens' biographies and gift books, printed in English and 30 other languages.
Exsa (UK) Ltd Texturising Division. Garforth, Leeds: Texturises pre-orientated polyester yarn for apparel and upholstery fabrics, meat wrapping, the *automotive* sector and medical products.
The Fin Machine Company Ltd. Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham: Machinery for making car heaters, radiators and air conditioning units.
Financial Engineering Limited. London: Trading as Risk Publications, publishes magazines, books and directories and organises *conferences* and training courses in the areas of financial risk management, emerging markets investment and energy.
Fletcher Smith Limited. Derby: Machinery for the handling, extraction and processing of sugar cane or sugar beet.
Fresh Catch Ltd. Peterhead, Aberdeenshire: Processor of herring, mackerel and whitefish.
GPT Public Networks Group. Coventry: Advanced telecommunications products and services.
Griffin-Woodhouse Limited. Cradley Heath, West Midlands: Mooring systems, fendering systems, integral stud link chains, shackles, chain and rope fitting, and towing systems.
Harcros Chemicals UK Limited, *Durham Chemicals Division*. Chester-le-Street, County Durham: Catalysts; paint driers and biocides for the coatings industry; and zinc-based chemicals for use in the rubber and chemical industries.
Henrob Limited. Flint, Clwyd: Self-*piercing rivets and riveting systems.*
John Hogg Technical Solutions Ltd. Trafford Park, Manchester: Liquid dyes and markers for use as fuel colourants by the international petroleum industry.
IBM United Kingdom Limited - *Greenock site*. Greenock, Strathclyde: Personal computers and provider of customer support service.
Iggesund Paperboard (Workington) Ltd. Workington, Cumbria: Folding box board for use *in packaging* and graphics.

Continued on facing page

1997

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AN FKI ENGINEERING GROUP COMPANY

Thirteen is a lucky number for JCB

The same names keep cropping up, says **Michael Hatfield**

JCB Group has notched up another double in The Queen's Export Awards, this time by its wheeled loader and backhoe loader divisions, both based at Rocester, Staffordshire. It is the fourth time that the group has achieved a notable double in a single year. The company has won 13 awards since 1969.

Exports by the wheeled loader division, JCB Earthmovers, have risen from £6.6 million in 1994 to £20.4 million in 1996. Employing about 100 people, and exporting to Europe, the Middle and Far East, the US, Australia, Vietnam and Sweden, the introduction of new models has resulted in a sales increase of 50 per cent in the past two years.

The backhoe loader division, *J C Bamford* Excavators, employing almost 300 people, has sold in some 120 countries over the past three years and exports have increased by almost £70 million to £177.9 million in 1996.

The **Martin-Baker Aircraft Company**, based at Higher Denham, Uxbridge, has won six previous awards. The company manufactures ejection seats and has pioneered the technical advancement of military air crew escape. Its export of ejection seats, helicopter crashworthy seats, spares and a full range of technical and support services to 50 countries is estimated to have saved the lives of 6,570 air crew around the world.

Also in the aviation business, **Avro International Aerospace**, a division of British Aerospace Regional Aircraft, based at Woodford, Stockport, won an award for its export of the BAe 146 civil aircraft and the new, updated version known as the Avro RJ. The company's main export markets are Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Turkey, Malta, Colombia and Australia.

AGCO, makers of agricultural tractors, related parts and agricultural equipment, and formerly known as Massey Ferguson, won its first export award in 1986.

The company, based in Coventry, has increased its exports by more than £100 million in the past three years and exports to more than 140 countries.

Lansing Linde, based at Basingstoke, world leader in the manufacture of fork-lift trucks and associated equipment, has previously won four export awards and a combined export and technology award in 1972.

Now German-owned, its traditional export markets, which have more than doubled in the past three years, are Europe, Commonwealth countries and the Middle East. Its fastest-growing new markets are in eastern Europe, the Far East and the Pacific Rim. Trading for more than a century, **Phoenix Engineering**, based at Chard, Somerset, is a small company manufacturing road maintenance equipment. Exports have increased by more than 150 per cent in the past three years.

Its products go to more than 70 markets, mostly developing countries. Thailand has been the main market.

Michael Hatfield on the firms with a global lead in advanced technology

Direct line overseas

AN Edinburgh-based telecommunications software company, **Kingston-SCL Ltd**, has increased its overseas earnings nearly tenfold from licensing agreements and has won a Queen's award for its export achievement.

Michael Lacey, managing director, says: "It's an outstanding achievement when you consider we have only been exporting since 1991. Then, we sold under £250,000 of our services outside the UK. Now that figure has increased by over 68 times to £17 million. We are profitable and we are still rapidly growing."

Kingston-SCL's Jupiter billing and customer-care system has 40 users in 28 countries

Another telecommunications company which has made strides against strong international competition is **GPT Public Networks Group**, based at Coventry, which makes the plumbing of the rapidly growing industry of transmission networks, and has increased its export sales between 1994-96 by 240 per cent. It is the second year in succession that it has won an export award.

The small company of **Electra Polymers & Chemicals Ltd** based at Tonbridge, Kent, employs 28 people and makes a range of fine polymers, coatings and chemicals for the electronics industry and has won the export award for the first time. Founded in 1984 by Nick Heesom, chairman and managing director, the company's annual sales and production figures have doubled since February 1995 and exports have tripled in the last three years.

Computational Dynamics Limited, based in London, develops and markets a multipurpose thermofluids analysis software system used by engineers to simulate fluid flow, heat transfer and chemical reaction in industry and the environment. Some 90 per cent of its turnover is in exports and it is particularly involved in the automotive industry.

Pixel Power Limited has 20 employees and started in Cambridge ten years ago. It makes hardware and software systems for creating graphics, text and animation for television programme production and broadcasting. Its main product, *Collage*, which can produce animated text as well as graphics on screen, is currently available in 20 language versions, the most recent in Slovenian and Thai.

Planit International Ltd, based at Ashford, Kent, started trading in 1984 and develops and sells computer aided planning and costing software for retailers and makers of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and office furniture.

EXPORT WINNERS

Continued from page 42

Innovative Technology Limited, Oldham: Manufacturer of bank note validators.
International Gases and Chemicals Ltd, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire: High purity gases and liquid chemicals for high technology industries.
International KD Logistics & Technology Support Operations, Dagenham, Essex: *Ford Motor Company* organisation developing markets for vehicle kit assembly.
International Systems and Communications Ltd, London: Publications in several languages for UN bodies and other international organisations for conference and other events.
Interpack Worldwide plc, London: International removal and relocations services for individual and corporate clients.
Inveresk plc, Dunfermline: Speciality paper and board at four mills in Scotland and one in Somerset.
Backhoe Loader Division, JC Bamford Excavators Limited, Rocester, Staffordshire: Backhoe loaders for the construction industry.
JCB Earthmovers Limited (Wheeled Loader Division), Rocester, Staffordshire: Wheeled loading shovels, the largest volume product in the earth moving sector.
W Jordan (Cereals) Limited, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Natural breakfast cereals.
Keith Ceramic Materials Ltd, Belvedere, Kent: Synthetic refractory raw materials, particularly mullites.
Kingston-SCL Ltd, Edinburgh. Telecommunications software
Lansing Linde Limited, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Fork lift trucks and equipment
Marks & Spencer plc, London: Clothing, home furnishings and food in over 30 countries worldwide.
Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Limited, Higher Denham, Nr Uxbridge, Middlesex: Aircraft ejection seats and helicopter crashworthy seats.

continued on page 45

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1997

British expertise takes off

Rodney Hobson reports on the latest technology award winners

TRAVEL by air is now safer, and more entertaining, thanks to pioneering work by **Racal Avionics**. Based in southwest London, the company has developed an airborne satellite communications system (satcom) that has been adopted by almost every major airline.

Sean O'Malley, the managing director, says: "Our system reports the aircraft's position accurately, allowing aircraft to fly closer together safely because the pilots know exactly where the other planes are. Routing of aircraft can be improved."

Racal's satellite communications system allows passengers to make in-flight telephone and fax calls and to link laptop computers to the Internet. They can retrieve information and send e-mail messages while in the air. In future, passengers will be able to make car hire, hotel and restaurant reservations, play computer games and watch videos.

Satcom was a joint operation with Honeywell of the US, and involved 60 staff in Britain and 60 in Phoenix, Arizona. Racal contributed its engineering skills and Honeywell its marketing and product-support expertise. The Racal Electronic group has now won 33 Queen's Awards, 20 for export and 13 for technology.

The technology award won by **Aspect**, a company that moulds contact lenses, will be announced this morning at the optical industries exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

The company's system for moulding disposable soft contact lenses has been developed in the face of stiff foreign competition. Since it began manufacturing at a new plant at Hamble in Hampshire two-and-a-half years ago, production has multiplied seven times. The service centre at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, handles more than 1,000 telephone orders a day. Aspect's UltraSYNC moulding system automatically moulds lenses with an edge even thinner than a human hair.

Two technology awards have gone to **Snell & Wilcox**, which develops components for video displays at Petersfield, Hampshire. Pictures on large screens at events such as rock concerts have been improved either by increasing the number of lines on the screen or by increasing the display rate to eliminate flickering.

The second award, which is shared with **Electrocraft Laboratories** of Liss, Hampshire, is for using advanced digital technology to produce the best possible television test signals.

Homes are spared the inconvenience of having power supplies disrupted thanks to a device manufactured by **Whipp & Bourne** at Castleton, Rochdale. The device has only one moving part compared with 100 in a conventional circuit breaker, and is less obtrusive and easier to install.

ICI Explosives Europe, based at Rochdale, Greater Manchester, has found a way to make its products safer. By carrying two basic components separately, one in emulsion form and the other as granules, and mixing them on site, there is no danger of an explosion en route. Sales are mainly to the mining and quarrying industries, including coalmining. Australia is a key export market and sales are also made to South Africa, Latin America and North America.

Cameras that use silicon chips produced by **VLSI Vision** are cheaper, smaller and use less power than previously. The Edinburgh company produced the chips for a video camera for children marketed at less than £100 last Christmas. VLSI Vision has already led the world in developing the smallest video camera, the first digital colour camera and the first single-chip colour camera.

Amersham Lie Science, part of Amersham International, has developed a system for monitoring the effects of potential new drugs on cells.

Edgar Biss, managing director of Percell, has guided his firm to 100 per cent growth

Countdown to success

A SMALL, privately owned Welsh business has joined the elite ranks of companies that have won a double award for export and technology, *Rodney Hobson writes*. It also stands alongside ICI as one of the few to have gained a Queen's Award in successive years.

Percell, based at Newport, Gwent, developed its Tellermate machine for counting banknotes and coins by weighing them. Tellermate works by comparing a batch of notes with the memorised weight of a standard sample. It can cope with dirt and wear.

Coins are counted in plastic cups that fit into cash drawers and can be lifted straight into the machine. The time taken to count the contents of a bank till is reduced to 45 seconds from anything up to 15 minutes. Yet Edgar Biss, the company founder and managing director, says: "Success brings its own problems. I see our 100 per cent growth rate as a failure rather than a success. We are developing new product ranges that have the potential to give us tenfold growth within a couple of years, but we simply do not have the resources to deliver the potential."

Tellermate is exported to 25 countries and is used in major UK retail chains such as Homebase, W.H. Smith, Safeway and Pret a Manger as well as branches of major banks. Exports account for 75 per cent of sales with overseas customers including McDonald's and PepsiCo.

Oasis pens a winning number

CHRIS BAGNALL and John Yeoman, who started making pen nibs part-time in a garden shed, can now write their names with pride.

Their company, Oasis Art & Craft Products based at Kidderminster, has won a Queen's Export Award after 18 years of trading.

For Mr Bagnall, an industrial engineer, the award is "a recognition of our perseverance and achievement in expanding our exports". The company, which manufactures arts and crafts products from calligraphy sets to candle kits, is now Europe's largest manufacturer of painting-by-number sets and children's paintboxes.

It sells goods to 60 countries, the most important markets being Europe and North America, and last year set up an office and warehouse in New Jersey.

The company employs more than 200 people and its turnover has increased by 30 per cent or more in each of the past five years.

John Young on the exporters with winning formulas

Celebrating the best of British

WHILE the talk in Peterhead, Britain's busiest fishing port, no doubt centres on the iniquities of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, at least one firm in this small Aberdeenshire town is getting on with the business of selling fish.

Since 1991 **Fresh Catch** has been processing herring, mackerel and whitefish and has more than trebled its exports to France, Germany and Denmark, while opening up new markets in Israel and the Far East.

"The CFP is a political issue," says Christopher Anderson, the company's managing director. "Quotas will probably get smaller, which means prices will rise and there will be fewer fish for us to process. We must look at new ways of adding value."

The company plans to open a new factory, also in Peterhead.

Fish is one of an ever-growing range of foods which Britain sells worldwide. W Jordan & Son (Silo), of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, began milling more than 140 years ago. But it was not until the Seventies that Bill Jordan, the present managing director, on a visit to the United States, visualised the opportunities of diversifying into value-added processed foods.

W Jordan (Cereals) now exports a wide range of breakfast cereals free from additives or preservatives. They include oats mixed with freeze-dried fresh fruits and a variety of porridges and muesli. To those it has added Frusli cereal bars and healthy instant snacks. Its biggest markets are in France, Italy and Spain. It is expanding in Belgium, Italy, the US and the Middle East. Turnover in 1995 was £28 million.

The Chambers Candy Company of Halesowen, West Midlands, began trading only in 1991, but it already exports high-quality confectionery to 40 countries.

A second successive award has gone to **Bass Beers Worldwide**, which sells one of Britain's best-known bitter ales in a growing number of overseas markets, together with its new Caffrey's Irish beer and Hooper's Hooch. According to Simon MacDonald, the company's managing director, Bass is the biggest-selling imported draught beer in the United States. The company's markets are also expanding in eastern Europe and on the Pacific Rim.

A smaller brewer which has achieved comparable success is **Charles Wells**, of Bedford, whose Bombardier and Eagle bitter ales are sold in 300 pubs in Britain, and was recently given the top Brewing Industry Awards. It also brews the Jamaican Red Stripe lager under licence.

Top brew: John James and John Wells

The company did not begin exporting until 1985. Since then it has established markets in more than 20 countries in Europe and North America.

For whisky-lovers, the Hebridean island of Islay has a potent magic, and the **Bowmore** distillery, legalised in 1779, is among the oldest in Scotland. It is one of three distilleries owned by Morrison Bowmore Distillers, which since 1994 has been owned by the Japanese company Suntory, and which the following year was named Distiller of the Year in the International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Wine is unlikely to be a significant British export unless our climate changes. But the **RTA Wine Rack Company**, of Fakenham, in Norfolk, has become adept at producing the racks in which to store the bottles and has increased its exports from £1.3 million in 1994 to more than £3 million in 1996.

Finally, no retailer has done more to boost the sales of British products than **Marks & Spencer**, which operates in more than 30 countries and this year wins its fifth export award. It recently opened a new store in Cologne, Germany, another in the Czech Republic, and will shortly be moving into South Korea and the Gulf states.

TECHNOLOGY WINNERS

THE following have been granted The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1997:

Amchem Company Limited, Coleshill, Birmingham: a system which controls an electrical discharge generator to improve the performance of microhole machines used in the manufacture of diesel injector nozzles.

Amersham Life Science (Amersham International plc), Little Chalfont, Bucks: development of Scintillation Proximity Assay Technology and Cytostar – T Micro Plate Technology.

Aspect Vision Care Limited (Manufacturing Division), Southampton: developing the UltraSYNC™ method of producing contact lenses, a new process which overcomes problems of shrinkage and distortion.

Electrocraft Laboratories Limited, Liss, Hampshire: joint award with Snell & Wilcox Ltd for the development of a television test-pattern generator.

GPT Public Networks Group, Coventry: development of a family of synchronous multiplexers, allowing telecommunications traffic to be consolidated into higher-speed traffic streams, increasing the efficiency of the network.

ICG Ltd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: development of the 350i series of vertical drum scanners for use in high quality graphics work.

ICI Explosives Europe, Wigan, Lancashire: developing emulsion explosives at the point of use for immediate consumption.

Integrated Display Systems Limited, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear: developing the CLAVIS range of belt tension measurement equipment, primarily used by the automotive industry.

Percell Group Ltd, Newport, Gwent: development of "Tellermate", a machine that counts bank notes and coins by weighing them.

Racal Avionics Limited, London: development of a multi-channel aeronautical satellite communications system.

Scapa Group — Advanced Products Division, Blackburn, Lancashire: development of a porous composite membrane constituent of paper machine press clothing.

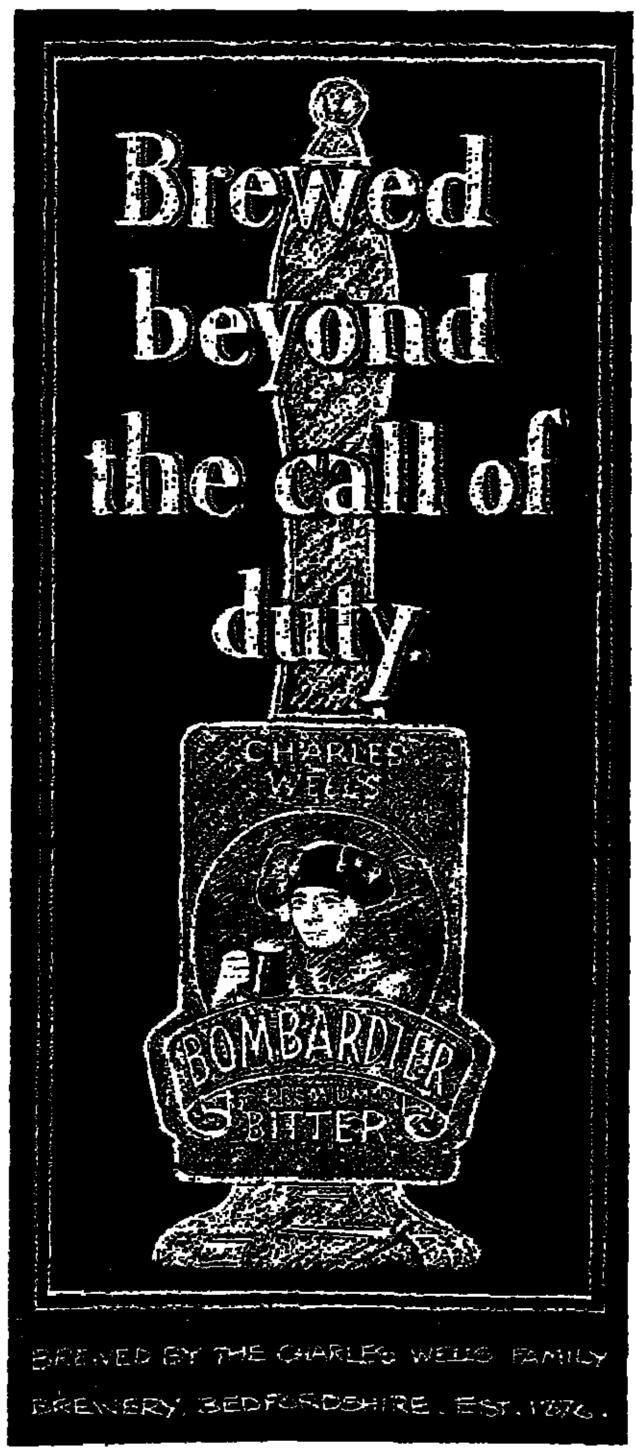
Snell & Wilcox Ltd, Petersfield, Hampshire: development of a large screen optimiser for video displays called Supervisor.

Snell & Wilcox Ltd: a joint award with Electrocraft (see above), for the development of a test-pattern generator for television.

VLSI Vision Limited, Edinburgh: development of a silicon sensor, to be incorporated into products that are smaller and cheaper than existing electronic devices, based on charge-coupled device image sensor chips.

Whipp & Bourne, Castleton, Rochdale: award for the development of a pole-mounted, gas-filled vacuum recloser (GVR) for the protection of sections of overhead power lines.

Zeneca LifeScience Molecules, Blackley, Manchester: development of a biotransformation process, for the production of a herbicide intermediate.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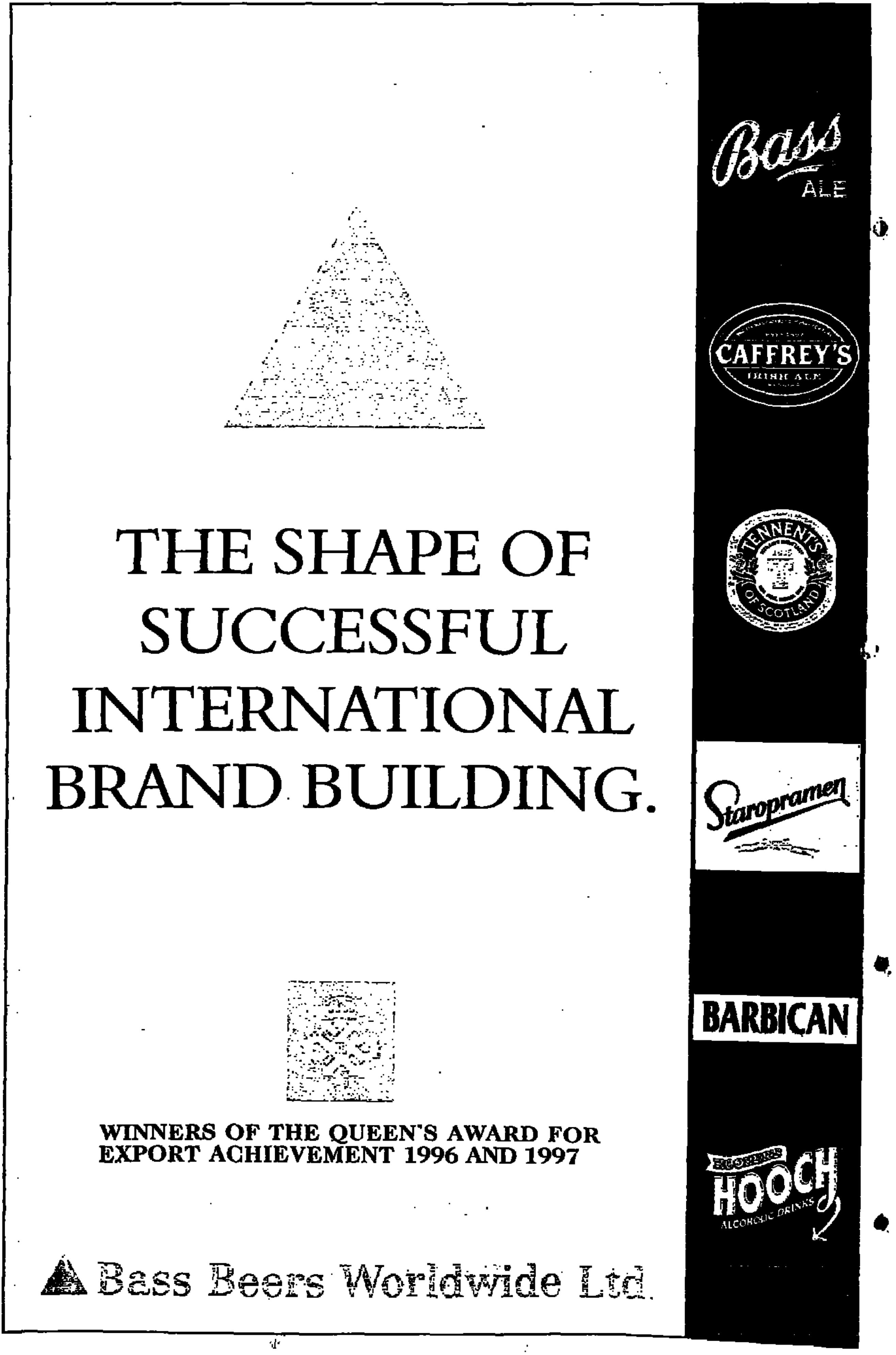

THE SHAPE OF SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL BRAND BUILDING.

WINNERS OF THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1996 AND 1997

Bass Beers Worldwide Ltd

Healthy growth in turnover produces results

Michael Hatfield looks at export winners in medicine and health

A COMPANY that exports personal care, health care, beauty, and household products has won a Queen's Award for Export. Exports from the *Chatwani family's* company, **Davis & Dann**, Ruislip, Middlesex, now account for 80 per cent of turnover.

Blease Medical Equipment Ltd, part of Blease Medical Holdings Ltd, based at Chesham, Bucks, *manufacturer* of anaesthetic equipment for *use in operating* theatres, has won an export award in a highly competitive market. Export sales, which represent 70 per cent of the company's turnover, have *doubled during the* past three years.

The Northern Ireland company **Perfecseal Limited**, of Londonderry, has won its second award for the manufacture and export of packaging for sterile equipment for medical and *surgical* use. *The* company has achieved sustained growth and exports to 22 countries, mainly in Europe.

Another second-time winner is **Pfizer Limited**, of Sandwich, Kent. Part of an American-owned group, it develops *pharmaceutical and animal health* products, and has *twice* won the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. The total overseas earnings grew by more than £130 million during the three years of the application, and represented two-thirds of total sales.

Shield Diagnostics Limited, of Dundee, Scotland, has achieved its second award for the manufacture of *in vitro* medical diagnostic kits for auto-immune infectious diseases, micro-biology, and cardiovascular diseases. Its exports have increased by *more than 250 per cent since* 1995 and represent *two-thirds* of *total* sales. It sells to 60 countries.

A first-time winner is **Bionet Research Limited**, Camelford, Cornwall. It produces research chemicals *for screening* and possible development in the pharmaceutical and *agro-chemical sectors. Almost all its* production is exported. Exports increased more than fivefold during the three years of the application.

Contract Chemicals Ltd, Prescot, Merseyside, *a* first-time winner, develops and synthesises fine and *intermediate chemicals to order* and manufactures specialised organic chemicals for the pharmaceutical, agro-chemical, photographic, and *detergent sectors. During the period* of application, it doubled its substantial exports which represent two-thirds of total sales. It sells in 25 countries.

Entaco Ltd (English Needle & Fishing Tackle Co Ltd), based at *Studley*, Warwickshire, *manufactures* and exports hand-sewing needles, medical suture needles, and commercial long-line fishing equipment. It has extended its range by developing special needles for craft, tattooing, and sewing. It exports to about 60 countries.

A breath of fresh air for industry

John Young on the companies who think green and clean

THE environment category *was added to* The Queen's Awards in 1993, at a time of acute criticism of industry's allegedly irresponsible attitude towards pollution.

With air pollution the *current cause for concern*, it is no surprise that three of the eight projects chosen for this year's awards are aimed at reducing fuel consumption and *minimising* emissions, and another at eliminating unnecessary dust.

One of the winners is ***Autoflame Engineering***, *of* Bellingham, southeast London, for developing a microprocessor to provide more accurate control of fans and pumps without affecting combustion performance. It is *claimed to* reduce fuel consumption by at least 8 per cent.

Two companies engaged in the production of gas turbines are rewarded for the development of low-emission combustion systems. The **Rolls-Royce** lean burn process has been found to achieve *significant* reductions in nitrous oxide *and carbon* monoxide emissions.

The **European Gas Turbines** unit, manufactured in Lincoln, is said to have reduced nitrous oxide emissions by as much as 85 per cent.

Cleveland Cascades, a division of Cleveland Potash, *based in Middlesbrough, wins* an award for a loading chute *that eliminates dust emissions* from bulk materials.

H & R Johnson Tiles, of Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, part of the Norcros group, is the largest manufacturer of ceramic tiles in the United *Kingdom. The pottery* industry notoriously produces huge quantities of waste but this company recycles its own waste, and two years ago it began to include scrap material from other companies.

Laporte Absorbents, of Widnes, Cheshire, has devel*oped a new water purification* coagulant known as Ferral, which is cost-effective and offers several environmental benefits.

The amount needed is usually considerably lower than with traditional coagulants, and the quantity of sludge generated in the process, which needs to be disposed of, is significantly reduced.

A further environmental benefit occurs during manufacture. Ferral is produced by extracting iron and aluminium compounds from clay waste normally disposed *of in landfill sites. The amount* of waste is now expected to be some 20,000 tonnes less in 1997-98 than it would otherwise have been.

On the tiles: H&R Johnson's team, from left, Paul Herbert, Malcolm Lawson, Tony Cotton, Alastair Kearton and John Doorbar

ENVIRONMENT WINNERS

The following have been granted The Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement in 1997:

Autoflame Engineering Ltd, Bellingham, London: microprocessor-based combustion *control system to reduce* fuel consumption and minimise harmful emissions.

Cleveland Cascades, Middlesbrough, Cleveland: loading chute *that eliminates dust emission* and minimises degradation and segregation of bulk materials.

European Gas Turbines Ltd, Industrial Gas Turbine Group, Lincoln: low-emission combustion *unit for industrial gas turbines.*

H & R Johnson Tiles Limited, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: recycling scrap from 12 tableware manufacturing companies, *previously sent to landfill, with their* own internal waste.

Laporte plc — Absorbents (Europe) Division, Widnes, Cheshire: development of a water *purification coagulant (Ferral)*, derived from waste stream material from clay processing.

Rolls-Royce Industrial & Marine Gas Turbines Ltd, Coventry: dry low-emission (DLE) combustion *system for industrial aero-derivative* gas turbines.

Sony Manufacturing Company UK, Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan: environmentally friendly machine *soldering process.*

Varn Products Company Ltd, Irlam, Manchester: development of a wash without volatile organic compounds and an *alcohol-free dampening* solution for use in the printing industry.

EXPORT WINNERS

Continued from page 43

Matsushita Communications Industrial UK Ltd. Thatcham, Berks: Panasonic range of mobile telephones and accessories.
Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd. Pentwyn, Cardiff: Colour televisions and microwave ovens.
Militair Aviation Limited Ringwood Hampshire: Spare parts for British manufactured fixed and rotary winged military aircraft.
Mivan Limited, *Antrim, Co Antrim*, Northern Ireland: International construction industry.
Molins Tobacco Machinery Limited, a division of Molins plc. *High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire:* Tobacco machinery.
Morgan - Europe Ltd. Sheffield: Design and supply of rolling mill equipment.
***Morrison Bowmore Distillers* Limited.** Glasgow: Distiller of Scotch whisky, particularly single malt whisky.
NEC Semiconductors (UK) *Limited.* *Livingstone, West Lothian*: Part of NEW Corporation (Japan), manufacturer of semiconductors.
Newbridge Networks Limited. Newport, Gwent: Network communications products and services for voice, data and other media.
Nimbus Technology & Engineering, a division of Nimbus *Communications International* Limited. Monmouth: Mastering equipment for DVD (a new disc format) and CD production.
Nortel Optoelectronics, a division of Nortel (Northern Telecom). Paignton, Devon Optoelectronic components and modules for use *in fibre optic communication* systems.
Novartis Grimsby. Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire Chemicals for the pharmaceuticals, crop protection *and animal health industries.*
Novocastra Laboratories Ltd. Newcastle upon Tyne Immunodiagnostic reagents for medical and biomedical research
Oasis Art & Craft Products Ltd. Kidderminster, Worcestershire: Art and craft products for leisure use
The Open University Business School. Milton Keynes Management education and development through supported open learning in 21 countries.
Orkot Limited. *Rotherham. Self-*lubricating bearings and wear components made from composite materials.
Orvec International Ltd. Kingston *upon Hull: Non-woven disposable* passenger comfort items for air, rail and coach travel, and protective workwear.
PFE International Ltd. Loughton, Essex: *Automatic folding and* inserting machines and forms handling equipment.
Pall Europe Limited. *Portsmouth*, Hants: Fine and ultrafine filters and separations equipment in the healthcare, aeropower and fluid processing industries.
Panaz Ltd. Burnley, *Lancashire*: Flame retardant furnishing fabrics, mainly for hotels and hospitals.
Paralloy Limited. Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham: Centrifugally *spun alloy tube assemblies for use* in petrochemical pyrolysis and reforming furnaces.
Percell Group Ltd. Newport, Gwent: Electronic machines which *determine by weight the quantity* and hence the value of bank notes and coins.
Perfecseal Limited. Londonderry, Northern Ireland: Packaging for *sterile equipment* for medical and surgical use.
BA Peters plc. Chichester, West Sussex: Main UK distributor of the Fairline range of motor yachts and *cruisers.*
Pfizer Limited. Sandwich, Kent: *Pharmaceutical and animal health* products
Phoenix Engineering Co Ltd. Chard, Somerset: Road maintenance equipment.
Pipeline Integrity International. Cramlington, Northumberland: *Pipeline* services to pipeline operators worldwide.
Pixel Power Limited. Cambridge: Hardware and software systems for creating graphics, text and *animation for TV programmes.*
Planit International Ltd. Ashford, Kent: Computer-aided planning and costing software for retailers and manufacturers of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms *and office* furniture.
Plessey Semiconductors Limited, t/a GEC Plessey Semiconductors. Swindon, Wiltshire: Silicon *integrated circuits and power* semiconductors.
Proton Textiles Ltd. London: Knitted fabric for sportswear, particularly for football
RTA Wine Rack Company Limited. Fakenham, Norfolk: Wine racks, exported to 33 countries.
Randox Laboratories Ltd. Crumlin, Co Antrim. Diagnostic kits for the detection of metabolic malfunctions, diseases and environmental pollutants.
River Don Castings Limited. Sheffield: Steel castings for use in *the off-shore oil industry and other* heavy engineering
Schwitzer (Europe) Limited. Bradford. West Yorkshire: Turbochargers and turbocharger spare parts
Shield Diagnostics Limited. Dundee: *In vitro* medical diagnostic *kits for autoimmune infectious* diseases, microbiology and cardiovascular diseases
Soil Machine Dynamics *Limited.* Newcastle upon Tyne: Subsea *machines for the burial and* maintenance of submarine cables and pipelines
Speedo International Limited. Nottingham. Swimwear and beachwear, selling to 35 countries
Structural Polymer Systems Limited. Cowes, Isle of Wight: *Advanced composite materials for* use in a range of dynamic, high performance structures
Surface Technology Systems Limited. Abercarn, Newport: *Plasma etching and plasma* deposition systems for the development and production of semiconductor devices.
Tensator Limited. Milton Keynes, Bucks: Constant force springs used in seat belt and vacuum cleaner retraction.
Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd. Burnaston, Derbyshire: Carina E cars, car parts and engines.
Turbosound. Partridge Green, West Sussex: Professional *loudspeakers.*
Urbanhurst Limited. Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Cylinder heads and engine components for diesel and petrol *engines.*
Victrex plc. Thornton-Clevelys, Lancashire: Manufactures PEEK™ polymer (polyaryletheretherketone), a *thermoplastic for advanced* engineering usage.
Vitacalender. Salford, Lancashire: Calendered rubber sheeting.
Wafer Technology Ltd. Milton Keynes, Bucks: Compound semiconductor materials.
Charles Wells Limited. Bedford: Independent brewery.
Wolstenholme International Limited. Blackburn, Lancashire: Metallic pigments and metallic inks.
Woodland Potteries Limited. Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: Earthenware tableware.

1997

Panasonic GSM

Matsushita Communication Industrial UK Ltd, manufacturers of Panasonic mobile phones, are proud and privileged to have received the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1997

The Directors wish to thank our customers, suppliers and employees for their support and encouragement.

Matsushita Communication Industrial UK Ltd,
Daytona Drive, Colthrop,
Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 4ZD
Tel: +44 (0) 1635 871466 Fax: +44 (0) 1635 871345

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SYNCHRONISED MOULDING SYSTEM

1997

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VISION CARE
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Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1EH Telephone 01442 876488 Fax 01442 874614

1997

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1997

PFE International Limited
is proud to accept the Queen's
Award for the second time in
four years.

This award has been achieved
through the commitment of
our Overseas Distributors and
Subsidiary Companies.

We would also like to thank
our employees, customers and
suppliers for their part in our
success.

PFE *World Leaders*
IN MAILROOM TECHNOLOGY

PFE International Limited
Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate,
Oakwood Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3TZ
Telephone: 0181 502 1011
Facsimile: 0181 502 4187

Blease *Frontline*

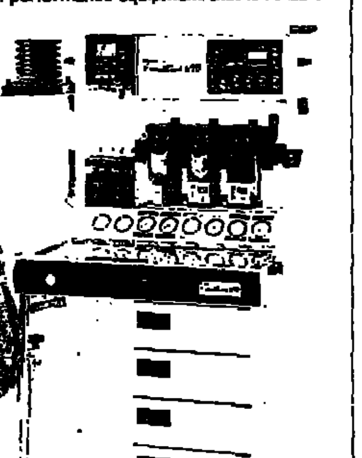
Blease gain
The Queen's Award
for Export Achievement

Blease are delighted to announce that they have been selected to receive The Queen's Award for outstanding achievement in export.

This prestigious award is highly prized and recognises a proven track record in exporting *significant volumes* of the company's products. Blease, based in Chesham, England, is a worldwide manufacturer of quality and innovative anaesthesia equipment. The Frontline *Plus*™ range of anaesthesia machines, ventilators and vaporizers are used and trusted by clinicians around the globe.

Established for over 40 years, Blease has faced tough competition from American, German and Japanese companies. *However with the Blease* commitment to providing high performance equipment that is reliable and maintainable - whatever the *environment, they have* become one of the world's major exporters *in the field of* anaesthesia.

Blease, British manufacturers of anaesthesia equipment for the world.



1997
THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT
1997

INSPIRED THINKING IN HEALTHCARE

For further information please contact: Blease, Beech House, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2PY, England.
Tel: (+44) 1494 784422 Fax: (+44) 1494 791497
Email: BleaseSales@Compuserve.com

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,441.70	Allied Domecq	427½	-3½	6.9	12.9
294.40	Bulmer (HP)	557½	-23½	3.0	16.8
35.60	Burn Stewart†	60		7.1	14.9
135.30	Glenmorangie A	995	-5	1.5	27.1
10,530.00	Grand Met	500	+½	4.0	16.1
9,694.90	Guinness†	513½	+12½	3.9	14.6
456.60	Highland Dist	342½	-1½	3.0	15.9
255.80	Matthew Clark	289	-45½	10.4	13.8
9.97	Minydan W	91½	.	6.3	12.4
5,356.90	SA Breweries	1818¾	-50	1.9	

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12,299.30	ABN-AMRO	4068¾	+106¼	2.8	16.9
11,234.90	Abbey Natl†	798½	+20	4.1	14.1
2,950.80	Allied Irish	438½	+11	4.0	
5,733.30	Aus New Z	384½	+10	4.9	.
26,656.60	Bank America	6537½	+37½		
3,896.20	Bank Scotland	325½	+8	2.8	11.9
15,311.60	Barclays†	1010	-26½	3.9	10.2
3,106.80	Bk of Ireland	646	+33	3.2	14.6
31,263.40	Citicorp	6459¾	-318¼		
6,599.80	Commerzbk	1634½	-21½	2.6	
20,874.70	Dai Ichi Kan Y	668¾	+81½	0.6	.
15,900.20	Deutsche Bk	3178¾	+3½	2.0	
190.10	Espirito Santo	887½	-3½	3.8	12.6
20,865.90	Fuji Bank Y	720¼	+116½	0.6	
13,396.00	HSBC†	1538	+46	3.3	13.3
26,596.30	HSBC HK†	1495	+43½	3.5	12.9
491.90	Irish Perm†	572	-6	2.8	
28,509.90	Lloyds TSB†	532	+27½	3.1	17.2
11,573.00	Nat Aust Bk	783½	+7¼	5.2	10.7
11,609.10	Nat West†	678½	-10	5.3	10.2
4,341.90	Royal Bk Scot	539½	-½	4.4	11.7
8,795.10	Stand Chart†	892	+54	2.0	16.0
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
6,115.50	Westpac	322	+5	4.1	10.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,048.10	Bass	795½	-12	3.9	15.7
13.70	Brk for the Bdr	52	-1½	4.0	14.2
36.90	Burtonwd Brw	177½	-7	4.0	16.0
271.70	City Centre Rest	140	-2½	2.3	
2,153.50	Compass Gp	671½	-11	1.6	26.6
58.80	Eldridge P 'A'	277½	-2½	2.4	17.0
66.20	Fuller Sm 'A'	480	-2½	2.4	16.0
1,517.40	Greenalls Grp	513½	-11½	3.7	16.2
421.40	Greene King	686½	-4½	2.9	17.2
27.50	Grosvenor Inns	193½		3.9	18.7
48.00	Groupe Chez Gerd	256½	+23½	1.4	25.2
55.70	Hardy Hanson	278½	+	4.8	12.6
81.60	Holt J	2812½	+25	2.5	15.1
53.10	Inn Business	70	-3	2.8	
229.50	Mansfield	352½	+1	2.2	16.2
257.90	Marston Thmp	285	+1½	3.3	10.6
183.30	Morland	567½	-23½	2.8	15.0
4.46	Paramount	37½	+2½		
439.20	PizzaExpress	668½	-6½	0.5	43.6
37.00	[illegible] (H)	397½	-12½	1.6	37.5
281.40	Regent Inns	316½	+1	1.0	30.3
4,164.80	Scot & New	675	+24½	3.7	20.4
385.00	Vaux Group	271½	+1½	4.9	12.9
449.10	Wetherspoon JD†	1157½	-5	1.0	25.8
3,743.00	Whitbread	767	-12½	3.6	15.6
447.20	Wolverhmptn D	663½	+5½	3.2	14.6
303.50	Yates Bros	488	-3	1.0	31.6
18.50	Young 'A'	637½	+2½	3.0	25.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,768.30	Electrocomps	415	+17½	2.1	25.1
100.70	Eurodis Elec	171½	+2½	3.6	24.4
51.10	European Mir	95	+6½	7.0	9.7
76.20	Evans Halshaw†	237½		8.7	
7.05	Fife Indmar	45½	+½	9.5	8.6
232.40	[illegible] Grp	350		2.1	17.8
31.30	Gardiner	29	-½	4.1	11.1
20.80	Glenchewton	69	+3½	2.5	13.3
9.52	Gowringst	107	+11	3.5	
27.90	Hamlet	93½		8.4	8.5
28.90	Harris (Philip)	242½	-5	4.5	14.8
158.20	Headlam	306½	-4	2.4	
5.94	Holders Techt	148½	-1½	5.5	
93.50	ISA Intl	228½	+1	1.6	18.3
1,308.40	Inchcape†	262½	+14½	5.0	15.3
7.07	Jacks (Wm)	65½	+13	4.4	
422.70	Kwik-Fit†	239½	+2½	2.9	17.2
404.00	Lex Service	355	+15	5.6	11.7
34.90	Lookers†	104½	+1½	9.6	7.0
21.70	Malaya Grpt	13¼	+¼	6.2	12.0
67.90	Middlesex	8¼	+1	1.1	13.0
17.10	Midlands	32½	-2½	1.9	
25.70	Norbain	245	-8	4.1	6.8
50.10	Northamber	147	+3	1.2	8.8
241.10	Partco▼	333½	+5	3.0	17.5
142.00	Pendragon†	357	-1½	3.4	16.9
52.50	Perry Gp	205		5.6	
1,355.30	Premier Farnell	499	+6½	2.9	19.4
30.70	Quicks Group†	132½	+6½	6.6	..
28.80	REA	317	+2	1.6	
3.54	Reece	2			
16.60	Roncon	18½	-1½	10.1	6.4
4.43	Ross Gp	3	.		
26.00	Ryland	91½		5.5	16.4
25.20	SEP Indl	28	+1½	7.8	7.5
17.90	Saltire	69		2.2	
209.20	Time Products	385	.	3.6	15.8
29.30	UMECO	295	+10	2.4	18.3
73.40	United Overs Gp	61½	+1		13.3
188.20	Vardy (Reg)†	332½		2.6	14.6
91.20	WF Elect	625		2.7	22.7
31.80	Whitchurch	34	-1	3.1	10.0
102.50	Wyko	147½	-2	2.2	17.2
30.10	Young (H)	135½		3.9	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
601.20	Antofagasta	382½	-4½	1.7	.
240.10	Ascot Hldgs	297½	+2½	2.2	
16,187.30	Broken Hill	814¾	+2½	3.0	18.7
10,102.80	BTR†	251	+½	4.8	10.8
16,482.30	BAT†	531	+20	6.1	11.2
294.60	Bibby (J)	188½	+½	5.0	11.0
1,470.40	Brierley Inv	55	+1½	8.6	9.0
697.70	Charter†	791	+13½	4.7	11.2
1,613.50	Cookson†	220½	+7	4.9	13.8
25.30	Cosalt	205½	.	6.0	9.9
247.50	DCC	306	+11	2.8	12.1
135.60	Grampian Hdg	121½	+½	6.4	12.5
699.00	Hanson Cstfd	126	-2	9.3	11.4
16,434.50	Hutch Whamp	454¼	+5½	2.2	18.8
2,201.20	Imperial Tobacco	422½	+9½	5.9	8.5
2,422.60	Jardine Math†	397½	-2½	4.5	
1,063.90	Lonrho	135	+2½	4.4	12.2
98.30	McLeod Russel	157½	-4	5.3	12.8
382.30	Powell Duffryn	443½	-½	7.0	17.4
33.90	Ropner	145		3.0	
202.20	Staveley	174	-4	6.6	12.4
4,512.40	Swire Pacific	464½	-12	2.8	17.2
590.60	TT Group	359	+3½	2.7	15.6
3,178.70	Tomkins	266	-5	4.8	13.2
36.90	Lindum	190		9.6	
111.40	Wardle Storeys	435	+10	5.7	16.0
684.20	Wassall†	350½	+11½	2.2	21.5
63.60	Whitecroft	143½	-5½	4.4	11.5
1,819.40	Williams Hldg	312½	-2	6.2	12.9

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
70.10	Simon Eng	44½	.	..	..
67.10	Six Hundred	121½	-1	4.9	2.4
2,351.60	Smiths Ind	771	-13	2.7	18.8
578.70	Spirax-Sarco†	732½	+30	2.5	19.3
83.80	Sterling Ind	275½		4.0	13.8
2,649.70	TI†	555½	+19½	3.3	18.5
18.50	Tinsley (E)	113½	+10	6.5	11.8
103.20	TransTec	116½	-1	2.6	
116.80	Triplex Lloyd	177½		4.9	10.0
61.80	Unicorn Ind	162½		4.9	
33.60	Utd Inds	75	-½	4.1	21.2
770.00	Vickers†	228½	+5	3.9	13.6
10.90	Villiers Grp	9¼	-¼		..
308.40	Vitec	634½	+1	2.4	11.4
280.30	Vosper Thorny	885	-2½	3.5	14.5
149.80	Wagon Ind	280		8.8	8.6
496.40	Weir†	245½	..	4.1	14.1
54.90	Wellington Hdgt	232½	..	4.4	
37.60	Wellman	25¼	+1	8.7	5.6
17.10	Wescol	54½		2.5	18.0
144.00	Whatman†	595	+20	2.8	18.0
4.84	Widney	40	-4½	10.8	12.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
113.70	Adwest	137	-2½	7.1	19.3
16.70	Airflow Stream	196	+1	5.1	8.4
189.00	Avon Rubber	700	-5	3.5	13.5
306.50	BSG	103½	-¼	4.4	
44.40	Bostrom	262½	+2½	3.4	
10.90	Boustead#	16½		7.6	38.7
108.60	First Tech	687½	+2½	1.7	20.4
3,335.80	GKN†	945	-24½	3.5	..
24,557.40	General Mtr	3468¾	+109¾	3.5	..
256.50	Henlys	482	+½	3.9	11.4
17,350.10	Honda Motor	1781	-60¾	0.4	
586.60	Laird	412½	+10½	4.0	11.6
2,743.10	LucasVarity	192½	-7	0.0	
386.10	Mayflower†	154	-¼	1.8	29.0
39.50	Sytner	162½		4.6	11.9
771.70	T & N	145	+½	5.3	.
6.81	Toad	40½	-½	..	
179.20	Trinity Hldgs	320	-9	3.3	16.3

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,680.00	AB Food	520	-1½	2.3	17.1
134.20	Acatos & Hutch	308½		4.1	41.6
306.90	Albert Fisher	42½	-¾	11.5	8.7
28.40	Banks (S C)	305	+4	4.6	11.5
74.20	Barr (AG)	382½		2.8	20.7
19.30	Bensons Crispt	38	...	3.3	9.5
821.80	Booker	335	-1½	9.3	
14.60	Borthwick	25	-½	6.5	31.6
15.10	CPL Aromas	115	-9	5.5	5.8
5,205.70	Cadbury-Schwt	518½	-12	4.1	14.2
16.40	Canadian Pizza†	90½	-3	6.9	10.5
26.00	Carrs Milling	325	+1	4.0	10.4
47.30	Cavaghan	70½		6.6	..
36.90	Cranswick	260	+17½	4.6	15.2
230.60	Dairy Crest Group	208½	-¼	5.5	10.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
218.90	Edin Dragon	81	-1	.	
23.70	Edinburgh Inca	28½	-½		
1,059.10	Edinburgh	360½	-3	3.5	31.3
37.30	EFM Japan	108½	+1½	...	
796.30	Electra Inv	480	-1½	2.3	43.1
236.60	Electric Gen	261½	-1½	1.8	56.5
86.90	English Nat	209½	-½	0.2	..
241.90	Eng & Scot	149½	-¼	2.5	38.8
93.80	European Asset†	376	-3½	1.4	
94.50	Fidelity Asian Val	92	-1		
139.30	Fidelity Euro Valt	244	+1½	0.2	
39.20	Fidelity Jap Val	37¼	.	0.3	
47.80	Fidelity Spec Val	130	..	0.5	..
33.40	Finsbury 'A'	208½		2.3	46.9
176.50	Five Arr Chile	193	+2½	1.6	57.3
0.41	Five Arr Wts	23½	-½		
286.60	Fleming Amer†	413	+9	0.8	
45.80	Fleming Chinese	75½	+4½	0.8	
3.24	Fleming Ch Wts	27	+½		
185.70	Fleming Claver	317½	-½	2.6	41.3
285.80	Fleming Contl	407	-1	1.2	
126.10	Fleming Em Mkts	130½	+¼	0.2	
95.60	Fleming Entp	239		2.8	30.3
381.60	Fleming F East	259	+1½	0.8	
51.20	Fleming Fledgl	406½	-3½	0.6	
84.50	Fleming Ing Inc	105		11.3	10.9
62.40	Fleming Ing Cap	155	+1½		
44.00	Fleming Indian	47¼	+1¼	..	
2.73	Fleming In Wts	16½	...	...	...
343.60	Fleming Japan	175½	+2½		
529.60	Fleming Merct	366½	-½	3.0	
43.40	Fleming Nat Rest	105½		0.6	...
430.30	Fleming Overs	324	-3	1.8	66.6
41.40	Fleming Smllr Co	195	-½	3.8	32.6
1,589.60	Foreign & Colt	151½	+¼	1.9	52.0
40.30	F&C Inc Grth	93	-¼	4.8	27.3
189.90	F&C Emrg Mkts	101	-1		
138.70	F&C Enterprise†	147½	-¼	2.0	49.4
192.30	F&C Eurotst	308½	-1½	0.5	
57.80	F&C German	147	-1½	0.5	
338.50	F&C Pacific	147	-1¼	1.6	51.2
85.00	F&C PEP	144	+½	3.8	33.2
182.70	F&C Smaller	174½	-5½	1.7	69.5
63.90	F&C US Smlr	127			
22.10	Framlin Inct	56½	-1½	10.8	16.3
18.10	Framlin Cap	73	+2½		
1.89	Frmlnd Dual Cp	54	-5	...	
2.81	Fulcrum Cap	17½	...		
2.64	Fulcrum Inc	23½	...	38.9	2.2
15.40	Fulcrum Zero	178¾	+½	...	
126.00	Gartmore Brit	252	-1	4.5	
11.30	Gartmore Eur	252	+1	2.1	48.1
82.90	Gartmore Euro	205½	-¼	0.9	
28.90	Gartmore Shrd	85	-1½	14.6	8.8
52.20	G'more Smlr Cos	362½	-½	2.0	67.2
45.30	Geared Inc Ord	38½	+¼	13.6	8.8
	Geared Inc Inc	48¼	+		
36.80	Genl Cons Cap	203½	-4		
38.00	Genl Inc	105	+1½	12.0	9.9
48.50	German Inv	123½	+½	0.5	
90.40	Gov Asn Sm Cost	241	-4½	0.3	
39.60	Gov Emg Mkts	104	-½	0.4	
40.70	Govett Am Smlr	163½	+1½		
17.80	Gov Glob Smlr	81½	-1	...	
36.80	Govett High Inc	77	-2	9.1	13.3
567.00	Govett Oriental	157¼	-¾	0.5	
343.70	Govett Strategic	350	+2½	2.6	41.5
0.53	Gresham House	12½			2.3
61.20	GT Inc Growth	113½		3.6	
116.70	GT Japan	187	+4	1.7	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12.50	INVESCO Jap Dis	44¼	-¼		
24.80	INVESCO Korea	74½	-1	.	
42.10	INVESCO Tokyo	37½	+1	...	...
27.30	J Fry 2nd U	94	+5½	9.7	12.8
9.74	J Fry Euro U	91½	+½	6.1	14.7
77.40	JF Fledg Jap	123	+½	...	
37.50	Jupiter Ex Inc	101		9.7	10.0
0.60	Jupiter Ex IncWt	10	-½		..
11.20	Jupiter Grd Cap	80	-2	12.2	10.2
12.20	Jupiter Grd Pfd	35	.		.
30.70	Jupiter Intl Grn†	122	-1	4.0	
266.10	Kleinw Chrt	338½	+2	2.2	49.0
30.70	Kleinw E Mkt	108½	-1½		
48.00	Kleinw Ent	160	+2		
27.10	Kleinw H Inc	90½	+½	13.7	9.6
226.60	Kleinw O'seas†	282½	-2	1.8	54.1
24.20	Kleinw Smlr†	183½		2.5	49.0
104.50	Korea—Euro	297¼	-1¼	0.4	
114.80	Latin American	127½			
218.50	Law Debenture†	948	+18½	3.3	28.7
34.90	Life Oil Opp	107	-2	.	
31.90	Lloyds Sml Cap	130	+½		
5.09	Lloyds Sml Dvt	20¾		24.8	5.1
37.20	Lloyds Sml Pkgt	151½		3.4	.
52.60	Lon St Lawrence†	160½	-1	4.9	25.8
75.00	Lowland	316½	+1½	4.3	24.6
69.30	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	692½	+37½		
7.85	M&G 2nd Dual In	78½	+2½	..	2.8
147.10	M&G Dual Cap#	3460			
5.69	M&G Dual Inc#	99	..	.	1.2
62.20	M&G Inc Geared†	61¼	-1	10.9	11.1

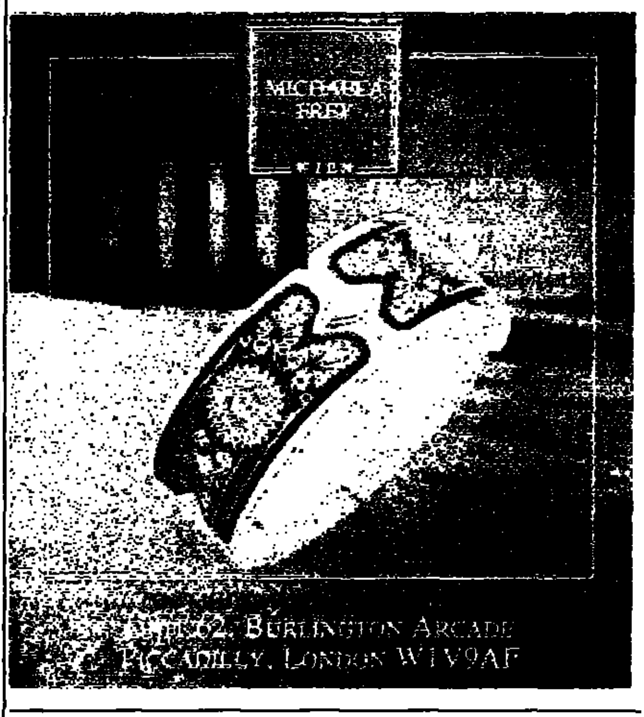
Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
132.00	Majedie	251½	+3	3.3	32.9
291.00	Merchants†	284½	+4	5.8	
589.60	Mercury Euro Pv	113	+½	2.1	43.6
37.40	Mercury Eur Wt	32½	-¼		
386.70	Mercury World†	90¾	-2½	1.6	76.1
5.54	Mercury Wld Wts	6½	-1		
496.50	Monks Inv Tst	638½	+2	1.9	49.0
59.90	Morg Gren Inc	162	...	4.7	25.7
2.91	Morg Wts	60	-1½	.	.
55.40	Morg Lat Amer	86¼	+1½	0.5	
4.04	Morg Wts	31½	..		
29.80	Murray Ent	123	-½	2.9	35.9
0.82	Murray Ent Wts	77			.
43.50	Murray Emg Eco	80	-½	0.6	
2.21	Murray Em Ec Wt	17			
26.70	Murray Eurot	74¼	.	0.8	.
332.80	Murray Income†	374	+1	4.6	27.7
511.50	Murray Intl†	425½	-3½	3.9	28.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12.50	Murray S/C DP	196	+¼		
11.30	Murray S/C Cap	200½	-1		
5.32	Murray S/C Inc	66½	-½	23.0	5.1
1.92	Murray S/C Uts	3700		4.0	
248.80	Murray Small	443½	-1½	1.4	65.5
96.70	Murray Ventt	391½	+2	4.8	21.9
1.99	Newmarket	5½			
146.70	O'seas Inv Tst	385	-1½	1.2	79.3
3.51	O'seas Wts	195½	+1		
136.50	Pacific Assets†	105	+¼	0.5	
179.90	Perp Inc Gth	104	-¼	2.1	
15.50	Perpetual Jap	42¼	+¼		
45.50	Perpl Uk Sm Cot	325		3.7	29.1
27.80	Personal Assets	£139	+100	2.0	48.0
44.40	Pilot Inv	119½	-1½	2.2	48.8
63.40	Prolific Inct	121½	+¼	4.8	27.8
432.80	RIT Cap Ptn	239	-¼	0.9	
	Robeco	506½	+¼	2.2	
	Rolinco	527¼	+¼	1.2	
125.30	Schrd Asia Pac	89½	-3	0.3	
82.80	Schrod Emg Cnt	85½	-½		
102.00	Schrod Inc Gwth†	139	+2	3.9	24.5
72.50	Schrod Jap Gwth	58	+¼		
30.30	Schrod Korea	459½	+6	...	
7.43	Schrod Splt Cap	36¼			
61.60	Schrod Splt Inc	108½	-2½	9.4	
54.50	Schrod Splt Zero	144½	+¼		
306.20	Schrod UK Gwth	137	+1	2.7	26.8
177.10	Schrod Ventr Intl	183½	-7		
811.90	Scot	286½	+1	2.6	46.5
386.80	Scot American	173	+½	3.8	34.4
75.20	Scot Asian	267½	-7½		
3.76	Scot Wts	645	-40		
673.20	Scot Eastern†	106¼	-¼	2.2	
1,033.40	Scot Mtge	286½		2.1	48.3
155.30	Scot Nat Tst	97¼	+1½	10.7	11.3
61.60	Scot Value	122½	-¼	2.0	60.6
383.00	Second Allnce	1995	+5	3.1	39.3
333.90	Secs Tst of Scot	104¼	+1	4.4	27.8
29.20	Shires Smlr	149½	+2	5.0	24.0
127.60	St Andrew Inv†	371	-1	3.2	38.5
222.50	Temple Bar	387	+3½	5.2	22.1
253.70	Throgmorton	83½	-¼	3.4	39.9
668.90	Tpltn Emg Mkt	142½	-2½	0.9	
384.50	TR City Of Lon	185½	-1½	4.2	28.4
251.40	TR Euro Growth	166½	+3½	2.6	
92.10	TR Far East	164¼	-¼	5.2	24.5
212.10	TR Pacific†	106½	-2½	0.3	
172.90	TR Property	36½	+1	3.4	27.2
406.30	TR Smlr Cos	228	-1	2.2	42.3
119.60	TR Tech Inv	329	+1	3.8	41.1
27.20	Tudey Trust	274½	-2½	1.6	
162.60	Undervalued Ast	153½	-¼	1.9	
63.50	Value Inc Tst	145	-2½	3.9	32.8
80.90	Value Real	86¼	+1½		
10.20	Voyageur Er Sm	101	+1	0.7	
28.40	Warrants & Val	35½	-		
16.30	Wigmore	89½	-½	1.9	50.8
1,050.80	Witan	280	-2½	3.0	39.4
19.50	Yeoman Inc	79		23.9	5.1

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
28.60	ABI Leis	68½	+1½	7.1	6.5
1,249.60	Airtours	917½	-21	2.2	18.8
46.00	Ald Leisf	39		2.7	22.5
81.90	Arcadian	55½	-3	2.8	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
290.40	Jarvis Hotels	165	-1	0.8	
141.10	Jurys Hotel	332¼	+3¼	2.6	17.8
56.40	Kunick	24¼	-1	3.6	15.9
2,761.20	Ladbroke†	235	+4	3.3	35.9
552.20	London Clubs	390	-8½	2.5	25.8
108.10	Macdonald Hts	184½	-½	2.7	20.1
419.30	Man Utd†	646	+5½	1.1	29.5
521.10	Mandarin Ornt†	74¼	-1	5.2	
563.90	Millennium & Cop	390	-8½	1.5	16.5
119.80	Northern	247½	+7½	2.7	21.8
12.70	Prism Leisure	149½	-7	5.1	8.1
33.70	Queensborough†	33	-½	1.1	12.9
53.20	Queens Moat	13¾	.		
3,565.60	Rank Grpt	426	-½	5.0	33.9
27.80	Ryan Hotels Ir	42½		5.1	8.6
406.80	Savoy Hotel 'A'†	1422½	+5	1.5	
56.50	Sinclair (Wm)†	250	+15½	4.1	14.3
24.90	Southampton	91½	+16½	1.4	
762.90	Stakis	100	-3	2.7	16.3
314.10	Stanley Leisure	285½	-1	1.5	28.4
6.58	Tandem	7			
1,380.10	Tanjong	346		1.4	22.9
1,110.80	Thistle Hotels†	180	-½	2.6	17.6
103.60	Tottenham Hot	103	-2½	0.9	17.7
23.40	Toy Options	111½		3.9	9.0
97.60	VCI†	251	+16	3.9	
163.90	Vardon†	125	-½	1.9	17.9
304.80	Wembley	376½	-2	0.7	12.2
6.57	Zetters Gp	92½		13.5	9.3



Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
83.90	Bristol	515	-5	3.5	23.8
32.80	Brit Allcraft	139½	+4½	1.4	23.8
10,062.00	BSkyB	585	-7	1.2	38.6
66.80	CIA Gp	150½	-1	1.9	
336.30	Capital Radio	536½	+1	2.9	18.4
3,221.80	Carlton Comm	532½	+27	2.6	16.8
191.00	Chrysalis	710		0.5	
6.40	City of Lon	80		8.2	10.7
576.90	Cordiant	130	+1½	1.0	.
87.10	Daily Mail	1743¾	-8¼	1.4	28.6
1,609.40	Daily Mail 'A'	1609¾		1.5	26.4
210.80	Dorling Kindt	300	-8½	1.9	25.3
1,587.50	EMAP	782½	-5	1.9	26.3
5,180.90	EMI	1191	+44½	2.9	29.2
6,406.20	Elsevier	974¾	+6½	2.5	
310.90	Euromoney Pb	1425	.	4.0	19.9
14.90	Fitch	41½	..	1.2	11.5
670.10	Flextech	601½	-6		

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
151.90	GGT Group	218	-½	3.4	15.3
232.30	GWR Gp	211	-6½	1.5	26.6
56.70	Gearhouse Group	368	-7½	2.1	18.3
12.70	Goodhead	31½	+½	1.0	19.3
86.30	Grampian	261½	-1	2.9	20.9
278.50	HTV Group†	316½	-1	1.6	28.1
16.30	Haynes Publ	247½		5.5	11.3
16.20	Highbury Hse	18			
77.70	Hodder H'line	220		3.9	16.3
25.50	Home Counties	255	-2	2.7	53.5
148.40	IBC	378½	-17½	3.1	13.4
36.80	Incepta	271¼	+¼		14.8
1,076.10	Independent†	322½	+5	2.4	
5.98	Interurope†	130		3.8	10.4
408.80	Johnston Press†	204	-5½	1.5	23.2
15.70	Lopex	79½	-½	2.3	
226.90	MAID	244½	+19½		
125.30	Maiden	518½		1.9	37.7
19.30	Mediakey†	36½	-1	4.0	
105.90	Metal Bulletin	1056	-20	2.4	30.7
197.20	Midland Ind	143	-1	3.4	26.7
916.00	Mirror Gp†	218	-1	2.6	15.6
264.80	More Grp†	636½	+1½	2.9	15.9
5,538.60	News Corp	394½	+5½	0.5	7.8
2,306.10	News Corp Pref	336	-7½	1.5	
19.00	On Demand Inf	34½	-1		
7.79	Osprey Comms	26½			12.0
4,147.00	Pearson†	725	-1½	3.1	58.4
27.30	Phonelink	56½			
100.80	Portsmth Sund	840		2.9	16.5
42.00	Quarto†	278½	-1½	5.4	8.6
6,398.40	Reed Int	1124½	-12	3.1	19.7
9,853.80	Reuters†	584	-5	2.5	19.1
101.80	Scott Radio	380	-5½	2.6	30.4
415.30	Scot TV†	686½	-1	3.4	22.5
71.80	Shandwick†	27½	-½	3.4	9.5
5.10	Sleepy Kids	17	-4	0.6	20.3
79.60	Southnews	504		1.6	27.6
11.40	Sterling Pub	24½			49.1
117.00	Taylor Nelson	82½	+¼	1.9	
43.80	Television Cpt	175		2.1	14.9
7,374.40	Thomson Corp	1238½	+31½	3.7	26.0
645.20	Trinity Intl†	466½	-5½	3.2	19.1
77.10	Ulster TV†	142	-8½	4.5	
3,593.80	United News†	727½	-9	4.0	48.4
7.02	VTR	65	-½	9.1	5.2
91.40	Visual Action†	162½		2.2	15.1
7,835.20	WPP	247½	-2½	0.9	17.9
68.80	Wilmington	124½	-1½	0.3	38.6
612.20	Yorkshire TV†	1105	-3½	2.0	29.1

MINING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,081.00	Ang Am Coal	4390¾	-16¾	3.2	
8,963.30	Ang Am	3937½	-9½	2.2	13.5
1,007.80	Ang Am Gold	4175	-59½	4.5	
14.30	Anglo Pac Res	17½			
120.60	Arcon Intl	43½			
741.50	Ashanti†	779½	-53½	2.4	
252.60	Ashton	90½	-5	6.3	
69.70	Avocet	215	-1½		
56.30	Bakyrchik	129	-11		
341.40	Billiton	263½	-1½	5.2	27.7
3.31	Bisichi	31½		3.0	
36.40	Blyvoors	72	-		
99.00	Bougainville	24½	-2		

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
284.40	Henderson	1292½	-2½	4.4	19.4
2.77	Investment Co	95½		2.6	
69.60	Ivory Sime	219	-1	4.9	15.0
2,226.50	Jardine Strat▼	209¾	-12½	4.2	.
19.80	Johnson Fry	131	-½	3.9	
25.20	Leopold J	475	-15	5.1	28.1
1,289.20	Liberty Intl†	456½	-2½	4.4	28.3
417.40	Lon Forfaiting†	404½	+31	3.5	15.0
151.40	London Pacific	215½		8.3	7.8
124.40	Lon Scot Bk	101	+3	3.7	17.6
462.70	Man ED & F	177½	+1	7.3	9.5
965.50	M & G	1292½	-17½	3.5	21.8
2,313.10	MAM	1264	+5½	3.9	21.2
133.90	Paragon	152½	-2	2.0	7.4
716.30	Perpetual	2540	+22½	2.8	18.8
1,538.20	Provident†	585½	+½	3.6	19.3
89.20	Rathbone Brs	324½		4.5	12.7
23.80	Rea Brothers†	48½	+1	2.6	10.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
173.30	Rutland Tst†	59½	-1	2.5	15.2
22.50	SEC Group	137	-3	4.3	12.2
20.90	S & U	425½	-1	4.9	10.7
2,291.40	Schroders†	1517½	-25	1.6	15.5
592.90	Schroders NV†	1317½	-32½	1.9	14.3
282.70	Singer & Fried	111		2.2	11.8
5.33	Tower Lau	38½			
2.50	Tho Hldgs	5	-½		
20.80	Union	177½	+1	2.7	
29.40	Wintrust	350		4.9	15.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,599.60	Brit Biotech	243½	-6		
165.60	Cantab Pharms	1010	+22½		
442.70	Celltech	583½	+12½		
393.00	Chiroscience	371½	-1		
356.20	Cortecs	275½	-43		
40,336.20	Glaxo Wellt	1136	+40½	3.6	23.4
258.40	ML Laboratories	197½	+20		51.7
1,069.90	Medeva†	305½	-8½	2.0	
115.30	Peptide Thera	322	+14½		
34.90	Proteus Intl	63½	+2		
227.70	Scotia	435	+10		
187.70	Shire Pharms	323½			
277.20	SkyePharma	60	-5		
24,905.20	SmithKline	904	+1½	2.2	23.1
77.10	Therp Anti Inc	360	-4		
155.00	Vanguard	625	15		
87.90	Xenova	380	-2½		
17,386.30	Zeneca†	1634	-17	2.4	26.0

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
26.90	AG Holdings	128	-4	6.0	10.6
206.50	API	735	-3	1.9	23.4
15.00	App Holo	56½	-1		
1,519.40	Arjo Wiggins†	184½	-12½	5.1	15.7
26.70	Assam Const	172	8	4.5	
48.20	Bath Press	27¼	-½	2.5	12.3
177.70	Bemrose†	419	-1½	3.5	11.0
133.20	Blagden†	184	-2	1.7	
948.00	Bowater Inc	2590¾	+143½	..	
205.40	Bowman Intl†	291½	+5	1.9	
264.30	Br Polythene†	652½		3.5	13.9
3.30	Bt Thornton	30½	-1		
157.00	Britton Grp	113	-2½	3.7	10.6
984.40	Bunzl†	219	-1	3.6	13.4
65.50	Capital Inds†	192½	-1	3.7	
29.80	Cropper (James)	258½		7.4	13.1
1,225.20	De La Rue	545½	+16½	5.5	13.9
6.48	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.8
57.90	Dolphin Pack†	247½	+22½	3.5	
25.10	Fairway Group	62½		6.0	14.5
92.40	Ferguson Intl	203½	-1½	8.1	10.9
41.80	Filofax	138½		3.2	10.4
58.40	Inveresk†	111	-4	6.5	42.6
105.90	Jarvis Porter	225½	-2	3.9	13.3
420.70	Low & Bonar†	405½	-12½	4.6	11.0
159.00	MY Holdings	117½	-3½	2.7	16.3
232.60	Macfarlane	184½		2.8	
23.60	Nobo Gp	134½	+1	5.8	10.0
57.80	Photobition	545	+30	1.5	27.9
92.60	Plysu	167½	+½	5.5	16.4
30.20	Porter Chadbn	25	-½	7.2	9.1
1,611.20	REXAM†	319½	-4	5.5	23.0
535.60	St Ives Gp	537½	+6	2.3	19.6
730.20	Sappi	495	-25½	3.9	
1.39	Send	2			
79.00	Sidlaw	115	+½	2.2	
755.10	Smith David	243	-9½	3.9	8.1
651.60	Smurfit (Jeff)	152½	-3	3.2	
3.40	Somic	170	+25	2.2	17.5
64.90	Wace†	92	-½	4.6	
329.10	Waddington	312½	-4	3.9	15.6
356.50	Watmoughs	372½	-10	3.5	17.2

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
847.70	MFI	143½	-9	4.0	13.9
14,019.10	Marks Spencer	494½		3.0	19.5
361.80	Menzies (John)	465	-6	3.7	12.1
19.90	Merchant Retail	23¼	+¼		27.5
244.30	Moss Bros	1380	-15	2.2	
2,312.30	Next	645	+13½	3.0	20.6
7.46	Oliver (G)	29½	-½		
251.90	Ordiame Intl	471	-36	3.3	14.5
16.00	Partridge Fine	72½		5.3	14.1
13.60	QS Hldgs	34½	+1		
115.30	Rosebys†	312½	-1½	3.1	17.0
1,214.00	Sears	79½	+2½	6.2	64.8
104.90	Signet Group	35¾	-¼		
1,235.40	Smith WH	437	-14½	4.5	
332.30	Sotheby's	950	+15	2.6	
990.10	Storehouse	235	+2	4.0	15.7
66.00	Stylo	111	-1½	5.2	17.2
137.30	T & S Stores	190½	-2	5.2	11.1
706.10	Thorn	163	-8	10.2	12.6
103.30	Tie Rack	199	-4½	2.1	
6.90	Upton & South	4	+½		18.9
3,600.00	Vendome	516	+1	2.5	19.1
38.40	WEW Group	19½			16.3
119.40	Wickes	158	+9½		
13.70	Wld of Leather†	113½	+2	2.2	23.9
109.90	Wyevale†	282½		2.7	20.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,232.10	ADT	1607½	+12½		
388.00	AEA Tech	485	-15	1.9	22.4
167.90	Alpha Airpts	100	+1½	6.2	12.8
17.30	Alphameric	40½	+2		15.8
284.70	Atkins WS	309½	-2	2.6	22.5
34.70	BNB Res	158½	+1	6.2	
118.40	BPP†	440		3.7	19.7
39.50	BSM†	141½	-3½	6.7	10.6
567.90	BTG	649	+6½	0.8	
10.80	Brooks Service†	84½	+6½	5.2	12.8
234.30	Business Post	454	-3½	2.6	23.2
743.60	CMG†	1160	+9	0.6	
321.30	CRT Gp†	229½		2.3	28.9
20.60	Caird Gp	762½	+5	1.3	7.0
423.40	Capita Group▼	231	+16	0.9	43.0
2.88	Chemex	7	-¼	2.7	17.3
1,199.20	Chubb Sec	424½	+2	2.6	20.7
272.90	Corp Services†	194½	-1½	3.4	15.5
22.70	Coutts Cnstlg	46½		6.4	
64.30	DCS Gp	320	+10½	0.6	35.2
358.30	Davis Service†	260	-1	4.9	14.4
229.00	Delphi	795	-5	0.9	
29.90	Dudley Jenkns	224½	+14½	2.2	21.0
9.55	EW Fact	52½	-1	4.9	
19.80	El Data Prc	75½	+½	3.6	11.4
143.60	FI Group	483½	+1	1.1	39.1
2,159.00	Hays	519	-9	2.1	21.4
195.80	Hogg Robinsn	221½	-½	5.2	10.2
290.20	JBA Hldgs	675	-15	0.8	40.4
138.10	Johnson Clean†	278½	-11½	5.3	
30.40	Kalamazoo	104	+4½	5.1	10.7
73.80	Kewill Sys	581	-5	1.9	15.9
9.50	Laser-Scan	39½			48.2
56.50	Lavendon†	260½	+4	1.6	20.0
75.70	Leigh	114½	+7½	4.3	
606.70	Logica	952½	+7	1.1	33.4
101.30	Lynx Hldgs	103½	+1½	2.1	19.3
44.30	MDIS	42½	-2½	3.6	
67.80	MMT Comp	570	+5	1.9	24.7
51.10	MR Group	91½	-1	4.9	16.2
80.30	Macro 4	407½	-5	7.6	11.3
43.50	Meshmore Abbey	51	+2½	1.5	
209.00	Micro Focus	1375	+105		
70.30	Microgen	177½	-1	5.5	11.7
1,009.90	Misys	1167½	-42½	1.2	24.7
109.00	MITIE Gp	168½	-½	1.3	24.4
18.50	Nowe Group	34	+½	5.5	8.4
35.60	Orbis	37	-1½	3.3	17.0
184.80	P & P†	229	+9	2.0	17.8
336.60	Page (Michael)†	542		2.1	17.3
214.90	Parity†	502	-3	1.0	
21.30	Pegasus	333	-4	2.7	18.9
14.30	Penna	130	+1½	1.9	
91.80	Photo-Me	128	+2½	4.9	16.0

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
	SHORTS (under 5 years)				
1,988	Treas 7% 1997	100¹⁄₃₂		6.98	6.14
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	100²⁹⁄₃₂	-¹⁄₁₆	8.66	6.21
630	Exch 15% 1997	104¹⁹⁄₃₂xd	-¹⁄₁₆	14.37	6.25
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	102¾		9.52	6.46
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	7.20	6.55
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	107⅝	-¹⁄₁₆	13.01	6.64
936	Treas 15½% 1998	111²⁹⁄₃₂	-¹⁄₃₂	13.87	6.75
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	107²⁹⁄₃₂	..	11.15	6.79
1,980	Treas 9½% 1999	104⅛	+⅛	9.11	6.85
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	109¹⁹⁄₃₂	+⅛	11.18	6.92
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	106²⁹⁄₃₂	+⅛	9.83	6.87
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	98⅝	+⅛	6.11	6.90
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	107⅛	+⅛	9.53	7.03
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	+⅛	8.56	7.07
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	102⅝	+⅛	7.79	7.13
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	116⅝	+⅛	11.15	7.18
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109¼	+⅛	9.15	7.21
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	99⅛	+⅛	7.06	7.22
	MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	110⅝	+⅛	8.82	7.34
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	103⅛	+⅛	7.75	7.35
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	112⅝	+⅛	8.86	7.41
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114⅝	+⅛	10.07	7.27
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	84⅝	+⅛	4.15	6.19
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	111⅝xd	+1⅛	8.51	7.44
8,580	Treas 6¾% 2004	96⅛	+⅛	7.01	7.40
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	106⅛	+⅛	8.00	7.51
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	111⅝xd	+1⅛	8.49	7.50
2,700	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125⅝	+⅛	9.93	7.44
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	99⅛	+⅛	7.52	7.54
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	101⅝	+1⅛	7.64	7.57
2,058	Treas 8% 2002-06	101⅝	+⅛	7.87	7.51

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119⅝	+⅛	9.80	7.43
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	106⅛	+1⅛	7.98	7.58
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	110⅝	+1⅛	8.15	7.61
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	102⅝	+1⅛	7.79	7.65
	LONGS (over 15 years)				
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	87⅛	+1	7.11	7.70
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	111⅝	+1⅛	8.09	7.69
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	111⅝	+1⅛	8.07	7.70
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	82⅛	+⅛	6.69	7.46
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	102⅝	+1⅛	7.79	7.70
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100⅝	+⅛	7.73	7.72
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	103⅛	+1⅛	7.76	7.68
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	110⅝	+1⅛	7.92	7.72
11,500	Tr 8% 2021	103⅝	+1⅛	7.72	7.67
	UNDATED				
1,909	War Ln 3½%	45⅛	+⅛	7.71	
475	Treas 2½%	31⅝		7.88	.
359	Consols 4%	50⅝	+⅛	7.95	
	INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:			10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114⅝	+⅛		2.17
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185⅛	+⅛	2.71	3.37
2,300	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181⅛	+⅛	2.98	3.47
1,150	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	117⅝xd	+⅛	3.05	3.48
2,350	Treas IL 2% 2006	191⅛	+⅛	3.20	3.53
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171⅝	+1⅛	3.31	3.57
2,950	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177⅛	+1⅛	3.35	3.58
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	146⅛	+1⅛	3.40	3.61
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155⅝	+1⅛	3.44	3.64
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148⅛	+1⅛	3.52	3.68
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123⅛	+1⅛	3.53	3.68
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121⅝	+1⅛	3.53	3.68

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
218.40	Hyder Con Pfd	105½	+1¼	9.3	
96.60	Mid Kent Hldgs	565		6.6	9.4
2,623.70	Severn Trent	747½	+13½	5.8	8.3
163.90	South Staffs	2777½	+7½	3.7	13.8
876.70	South West	677½	-15	6.0	7.5
2,539.30	Thames	670	-5	5.7	8.7
3,495.30	Utd Utilities	658½	-15	6.5	12.0
786.80	Wessex	375	-12½	5.3	7.4
1,347.10	Yorkshire	363¼	-6½	5.5	9.6

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6.53	Abacus Recruit	100½		0.6	19.4
5.00	Cafe Inns	175	-5	1.7	13.5
37.80	Country Gdns	205		1.0	..
222.70	Freepages	46	+1½		
53.90	Megalomedia	92½			51.9
28.80	Memory Corp	47½	+10		
41.90	Old English Pub	236½	-1	0.8	74.3
73.00	Prism Rail	335	+5		
206.00	Ramco Egy	1005	-15	0.1	
108.10	Southern News	780		2.9	25.3
13.50	Southern Vectis	70½		3.4	15.2
49.10	Surrey Fr Inns†	442½	-2½	0.7	30.6
176.40	Trocadero	35½	+½		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Kleinwort Second Endowment, Norsk Hydro (Q1).
Finals: Dumyat Investment Trust, Kleinwort Endowment Policy, Pex, Premier Farnell, United Energy.
Economic statistics: US Treasury March budget statement.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cosalt, DFS Furniture, James Dickie, M&G Equity Investment Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Nynex CableComms Group (Q1), SmithKline Beecham (Q1), St Ives.
Finals: Fishers International, Henderson Highland Trust, Innovative Technologies.
Economic statistics: EU agricultural ministers meeting in Luxembourg; US Treasury auction of two-year notes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: GATX Corporation, Philips Electronics (Q1).
Finals: Bank of Scotland, Bentalls, James Beattie, Seafield.
Economic statistics: UK March retail sales; minutes of March 5, UK monthly monetary meeting; Bank of England to auction 7 per cent 2002 stock; CBI quarterly industrial trends survey; IMF releases world economic outlook report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Cater Allen Gilt, ICI (Q1), Shires Smaller Companies.
Finals: Laura Ashley Holdings, Austin Reed, Daks Simpson Group, Eurotunnel, Fitzwilton, Folkes Group, Foreign & Colonial Pacific, Scottish & Mortgage Trust, Trinity Holdings, Ugland International.
Economic statistics: UK February global, March non-EU trade balances; UK March EU harmonised consumer prices index; IMF's Michel Camdessus holds press conference.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.
Finals: none scheduled.
Economic statistics: UK Q1 preliminary GDP.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Laura Ashley has designs on growth

LAURA ASHLEY: Full-year figures on Thursday are expected to reflect the benefits of the stringent cost-cutting campaign implemented by Ann Iverson, chief executive, upon her arrival. As a result, pre-tax profits should be up from £10.3 million to £15.5 million, while earnings should have grown by 53 per cent from 3p to 4.6p.

Trading during the period remained patchy. As the Christmas trading statement revealed, a like-for-like sales increase of 7 per cent during the first six months had been almost completely eroded during the second six months.

Any improvement to profits in the current year will depend on the performance of its new ranges for the summer. The ranges are deemed to have improved, and, with the benefit of better weather, a narrowing of the gap between home furnishings and garments may be anticipated.

Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with an increase of some 200 per cent in the net dividend from 0.5p to 1.5p.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: Further strong performances from its pharmaceutical and healthcare divisions should help to offset the ill-effects of currency fluctuations.

The first-quarter pre-tax profits due to be announced tomorrow are likely to reveal an increase of about 10 per cent, from £387 million to £425 million, with earnings 8 per cent ahead at 10.3p.

At constant exchange rates sales of pharmaceuticals should be up by about 11 per cent, excluding the DPS acquisition. The main thrust to sales will come from Paxil, up 30 per cent, Augmentin, up 8 per cent, and a 25 per cent increase in sales of vaccines.

Among SmithKline's new drugs, Kytril and Famvir are expected to have made further solid progress.

Sales in consumer healthcare are likely to be up about 13 per cent at constant currencies, with further strong performances expected from Nicorette and Nicoderm in the US where the group boasts an 80 per cent market share.

A first-quarter payout of 4p is expected compared with 3.6p for the corresponding period, and brokers such as NatWest Securities have pencilled in profits of £1.7 billion for the full year.

Ann Iverson's cost-cutting campaign is expected to boost Laura Ashley's full-year figures

ICI: The first-quarter figures due on Thursday are likely to prove every bit as bad as feared with pre-tax profits set to tumble from £202 million to £75 million. The reduction in earnings is likely to be even greater, down from 15.9p to 4.5p, a fall of 72 per cent. The strong pound will have cost the group dearly with a negative impact of about £80 million expected. This is likely to mark the low point in the group's fortunes.

A slump in selling prices, high feed costs and a strong pound have all combined to take their toll.

The paint division is expected to produce a seasonally weak performance, although profits will be up sharply as a result of a contribution from the Bunge paints business.

The materials division is likely to show a further deterioration, while the benefits of rationalisation in the US should start to be felt in explosives. The worst performance will come from industrial chemicals where a loss is expected after higher feed stocks eat into margins.

BANK OF SCOTLAND: An otherwise exemplary set of annual results due out on Wednesday will be spoilt by the unexpectedly slow progress being made at BankWest, the West Australian retail bank that was acquired last year.

Johnny de la Hey, bank analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, which forecasts pre-tax profits of £664.9 million compared with £545 million last time, says that since Bank of Scotland purchased a 51 per cent stake in BankWest from the state Government it has failed even to reach the targets set out in its prospectus.

Based on its other businesses, however — such as NWS Bank, the finance house — the Credit Lyonnais team predicts a 19 per cent rise in the net dividend to 8.15p and remains bullish on the shares.

PREMIER FARNELL: After the profits warning in January, full-year figures later today are unlikely to contain many surprises.

The group is set to report an increase in pre-tax profits of 79 per cent from £5.5 million to £135 million following the acquisition of Premier, although earnings will take a nosedive from 37.5p to 28.6p. But the real focus of attention will be on prospects and future plans, highlighting the long-term benefits of the Premier deal.

Last year saw the group badly exposed to the slump in the worldwide semiconductor market, which accounts for 20 per cent of the core catalogue division's revenues. Brokers will undoubtedly be hoping for signs of an upturn underpinning an improvement in the semiconductor market.

Despite the uncertainty expressed by brokers about the future, hopes are high that there is scope to lift the payout by 11 per cent from 10.8p to 12p.

DFS: Growth continues apace despite evidence of a general downturn in house-related expenditure and rising costs. This will be reflected in half-year figures tomorrow expected to show pre-tax profits up almost 20 per cent at £18 million. This will be matched by earnings up from 9.6p to 11.4p.

A 33 per cent increase in sales to £116 million will be fuelled by an aggressive store opening programme.

Two new stores were opened during the period, stretching the total number to 40. Like-for-like sales grew 10 per cent in 1996. But the sharp increase in advertising during the period, particularly in and around the London area, will prove a drag on overall profitability.

The payout is expected to be up about 19 per cent to 3.7p.

AUSTIN REED: A strong recovery is on the cards when the group unveils full-year figures on Thursday. These are expected to show pre-tax profits almost doubled at £6.7 million, compared with £3.4 million last time, along with earnings up from 7.2p to 14.3p.

A positive trading statement in January cheered the market and provided evidence of a useful improvement in margins. Sales are reckoned to have grown by about 9 per cent, but manufacturing remains difficult. Brokers say the recovery still has someway to go. The payout is likely to be up from 6p to 6.75p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City focus on fate of rates

THE City is all but convinced of a Labour election victory and has turned its attention to the chances of a rate rise after the new Chancellor's first monetary meeting on May 7. The consensus is that rates will rise 0.25 per cent but stronger than expected GDP and retail sales data this week could put a half-point rise on the agenda.

The first-quarter GDP figures, due on Friday, are expected to show the economy continuing to accelerate. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, predicts quarterly growth at 0.8 per cent, taking the annual rate of growth from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. This expansion is regarded as well above trend by the Bank of England and it is likely to harden its calls for a rate rise.

Warm weather and an early Easter should have given a boost to the retail sales figures, due on Wednesday, but the City is still expecting more modest growth than in February. MMS predicts that the monthly increase will fall slightly, from 0.5 per cent to 0.4 per cent, with the annual rate remaining flat at 4.4 per cent. The minutes for the March monetary meeting are also published on Wednesday, but Eddie George has made no secret of his position on rates and the minutes are likely to be little more than a footnote.

The CBI industrial trends survey, which is released on Wednesday, is expected to show that in contrast to the booming retail sector, manufacturing activity and prices remain subdued because of the strong pound. The trade figures on Thursday will provide further evidence of the impact of the pound on manufacturing. The whole-world trade gap for February is forecast to rise from £641 million to £800 million. The non-EU trade figures for March are also expected to show the deficit growing from £554 million to £650 million.

In a quiet economic weak abroad, German M3 statistics — a target measure for the Bundesbank — are forecast to show a decline in monetary growth from 9.1 per cent to 8.3 per cent.

In Japan, consumer prices data will provide the first information on the impact of a rise in consumption tax from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: *Buy* Westminster Health Care, Emess, Northamber; *Sell* Highland. **The Sunday Telegraph:** *Buy* Sanctuary Music, Alexon, Charterhouse Communications; *Sell* JJB Sports. **The Observer:** *Buy* Associated British Foods; *Hold* Tie Rack. **Independent on Sunday:** *Buy* Northamber, Slough Estates. **The Mail on Sunday:** *Buy* European Colour, Datrontech; *Hold* Mice Group; *Sell* Bass.

Value on offer despite the risks

There are various ways we can look at fair value for conventional gilts. Current index-linked yields are about 3.6 per cent. To this we should add an allowance for inflation. At 2.7 per cent the RPI is rising in line with its five-year average rate. Finally we need to add a risk premium. As a proxy we can take the volatility (standard deviation) of inflation over the past five years. This is equal to 0.8 per cent. On this basis ten-year yields should be about 7.1 per cent, compared to an actual level of 7.5 per cent.

Of course fair value is more likely to be a range than a single point. We know that index-linked yields tend to be volatile, reflecting underlying growth conditions and international levels of real yields. The volatility of index-linked yields over the past five years is about 0.35 per cent. Allowing for this, we can suggest the fair range for conventional gilts of 6.75 per cent to 7.45 per cent — still just below current levels.

Although gilt yields are fair value to cheap, they may rise further. It is typical for markets to be driven to valuation extremes before heading back towards fair value. Moreover, real yields (measured as nominal yields minus inflation) at 4.6 per cent are only in line with their average of the past ten years. They are below their average of the past five years — currently 5.3 per cent.

Upside risks to current yield levels come from domestic and international sources. First, UK economic growth needs to be slowed by higher rates. Building society handouts will add to the rapid pace of consumer expenditure in the second half of this year. Already on some estimates there is little output gap left in the UK. Since the money supply is increasing rapidly, the labour market is tightening and wage inflation is rising at 5 per cent, the risk of future inflation is rising. Consequently, it is probable that we will have a number of rate increases after the election. Given the high correlation between short and long rates, rising base rates will make it almost impossible for gilts to perform well. This is true even though rate rises to about 7¼ per cent appear to be discounted in the forward markets for the next year.

GILT-EDGED

Second, the international bond environment is not constructive. Given the integration of global capital markets, it is unlikely that gilts can move in the opposite direction to overseas markets if international yields are rising. In the US yields are being driven up by rapid economic growth, rising wage inflation and a belated recognition by the Federal Reserve of the need to tighten. Elsewhere, in Europe and Japan, the monetary authorities have been operating emergency interest rate regimes. Economic recovery means that the need to maintain such low rates is diminishing fast.

How high could gilt yields go? The average forecast for UK inflation in 1998 is 3.5 per cent. The standard deviation around this is 0.6 per cent. Add to that at least some further inflation risk premium and index-linked yields of as much as 4 per cent and we have a possible peak of about 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent. This is still below the last peak of 8.9 per cent in September 1994.

If there is this upward risk for yields why hold gilts at all? Firstly, as has been suggested, from a longer-term perspective gilts already look to be fair value. Overshoots in value are an opportunity to increase exposure. Second, by comparison with a number of other international markets, gilts look quite attractive and so should be overweighted in an international portfolio. They contain more protection against higher inflation, higher growth and higher rates than most markets. Real yields (defined as the difference between nominal rates and current inflation) are higher than in most other countries. Nominal yields are the highest in Europe. Once the election is out of the way some of the risk premium associated with current uncertainty should come out of the spread against other markets. Gilts ought to be attractive to international investors. If EMU runs into problems, gilts provide a hedge against bonds in other European countries. If it goes ahead, gilts may be the last convergence play left in Europe.

Despite a significant risk that gilts will underperform cash in coming months, they remain one of the more attractive international markets and from a longer-term perspective are starting to offer value at current levels.

DOUG JONES
Gartmore Investment Management

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

TITRE

(c) The fineness of gold or silver. In chemistry, the strength of a solution as determined by titration. From the French *titre* a title or qualification. "The French rule for finding the par of a foreign gold coin is to multiply its weight by its standard or titre."

URE

(c) A damp mist. Local Scottish dialect. From the Old Norse *ūr* drizzling rain. "Glowring at the azure sky,/ And loomy oceans ure."

TROCHILUS

(b) A small Egyptian bird (not certainly identified) said by the ancients to pick the teeth of the crocodile. From the Greek for a runner, from *trĕchein* to run. "When the crocodile yawns, the trochilus flies into his mouth and cleans his teeth."

UNICIST

(c) A believer in the unicity of the Godhead, with none of the complex arithmetic about the Trinity. From the Latin *ūnicus* one. "The schoolmen would perhaps have called you Unicists; but your proper name is Psilanthropists."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxb8! Qxb8 (1 ... Nc3+ 2 Ka1 doesn't help) 2 Nxe7+ Kh8 3 Rxh7 checkmate

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch ...	20.67	19.17
Belgium Fr	60.81	56.31
Canada $	2.398	2.228
Cyprus Cyp£	0.874	0.809
Denmark Kr ..	11.23	10.43
Finland Mkk ..	8.98	8.30
France Fr	9.87	9.17
Germany Dm	2.96	2.74
Greece Dr	460	430
Hong Kong $	13.38	12.28
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.11	1.03
Israel Shk	5.84	5.19
Italy Lira	2919	2719
Japan Yen	219.80	203.80
Malta	0.660	0.605
Netherlds Gld	3.332	3.062
N Zealand $ ..	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	12.09	11.29
Portugal Esc	293.00	273.00
S Africa Rd	7.96	7.06
Spain Pta	247.50	230.50
Sweden Kr	13.33	12.33
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.32
Turkey Lira	223667	209667
USA $	1.730	1.600

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

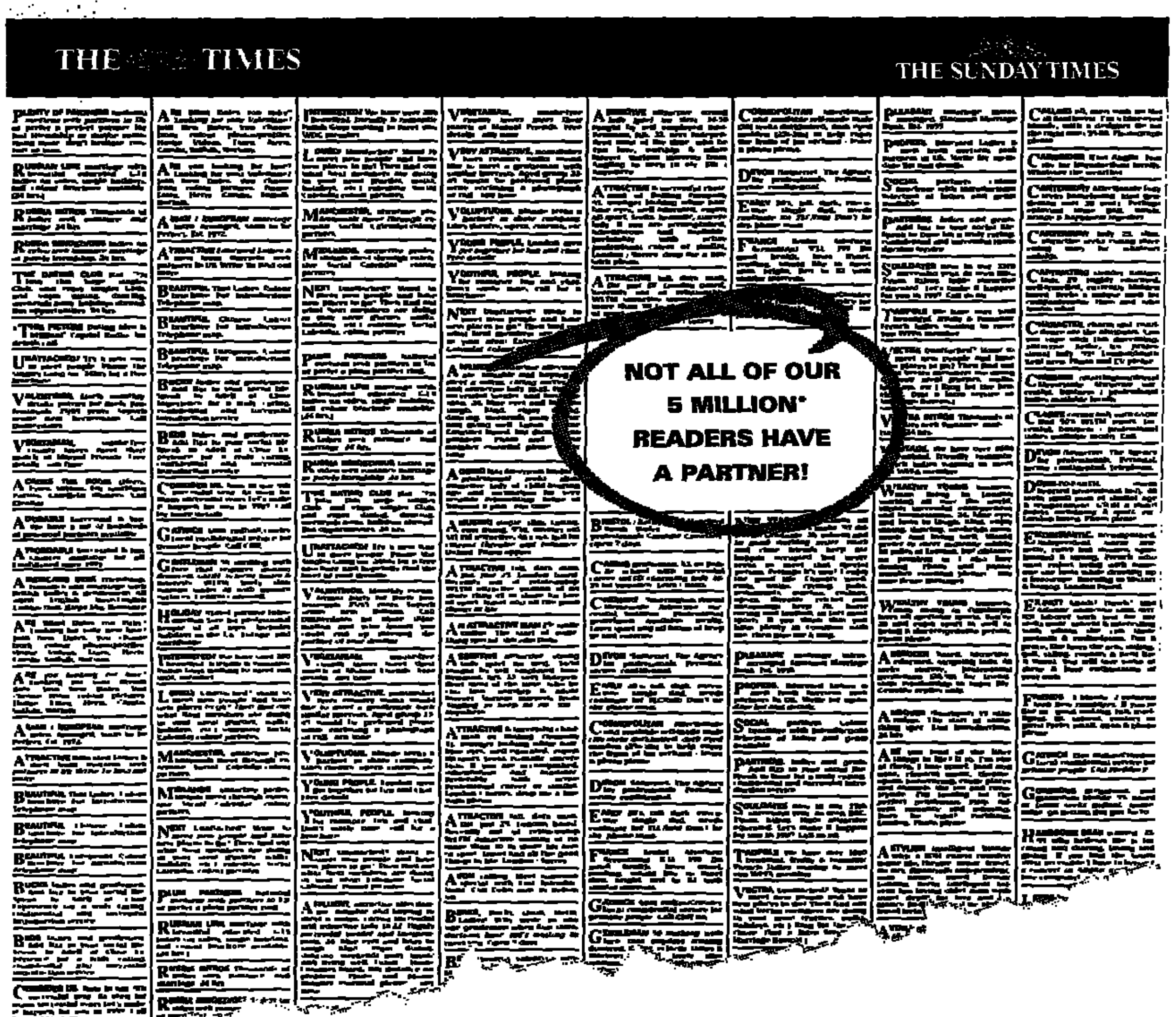
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6310 (+0.0055)
German mark
2.7991 (-0.0028)
Exchange index
99.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2834.5 (+14.5)
FTSE 100
4310.5 (+39.8)
New York Dow Jones
6703.55 (+311.86)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18352.14 (+505.16)



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Pressure groups hit home

Pressure groups affect the way more than half of Britain's big companies operate, says a survey published today.

The survey, based on the views of 250 companies, also suggests that recent campaigns by organisations such as Greenpeace have convinced companies that pressure groups will become more influential in the future.

Peter Hamilton, managing director of The Communication Group, the public relations company that carried out the survey, said: "The message to business is absolutely clear. It is simply not an option to ignore pressure groups. Protestors are finding that going through the conventional political channels doesn't work and that direct action is more effective".

Warrants move

Covered warrants, securities that can give the option to buy anything from debt to metal, are to be traded alongside equities by the London Stock Exchange. The warrants, currently traded over-the-counter, are to be transferred to the screen-based dealing system used by AIM companies along with buying and selling prices. The draft rules for the new system are published today, and the new-style trading is expected to begin in June.

Market bound

Royalblue, a software company, plans to go public this summer with an estimated market value of £35-£40 million. The company specialises in financial trading systems, corporate call centres and customer help desks.

Rosalind Wright, new head of the SFO, who takes office today. She has to balance the demands of a record case load against a shrinking budget

Tough debut for SFO chief

By Robert Miller

ROSALIND WRIGHT, who takes up her new post as director of the Serious Fraud Office today, is facing a tough task with a record case load being handled on a shrinking budget and with no police force of her own to call on.

Ms Wright, who was formerly an executive director of the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, is expected to press the new Government after the election for a bigger purse with which to tackle her investigations.

These include the $1.8 billion Sumitomo Corporation copper fraud; the Peter Young unit trust inquiry at Morgan Grenfell, and the circumstances surrounding the collapse of Facia, the privately owned retail empire.

The SFO also continues to maintain a watching brief on the civil inquiry at NatWest into the £90 million black hole.

The new SFO director, who succeeds George Staple, is expected to handle these cases on an annual budget that in 1996-97 is estimated at £17 million, the same as the previous year. This figure, however, is scheduled to fall by £1 million in the next year to level out at £15 million by the end of the decade.

The SFO employs its own lawyers, accountants and financial investigators but has to call for assistance from local or regional fraud squads — depending on the region in which the initial offence of fraud or theft was committed.

The most experienced fraud squad, and the one that handles most of the present SFO caseload, is the City of London fraud squad, which is engaged on the copper and Peter Young investigations. If the fraud office were to take on the NatWest case it is expected that the City of London police would be assigned to that as well.

Ms Wright has already let it be known that she feels that her budget needs expanding, particularly as most SFO investigations involve a number of different jurisdictions and cases of particular complexity.

A dedicated police force assigned to the fraud office would also help her cause, she believes.

Buoyant small firms boost the jobs market

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S owner-managed small firms are each creating on average 12 jobs every year, new evidence from industry suggests today as a further separate study shows demand for permanent staff rising at its fastest rate for a decade.

Companies in the UK's owner-managed small business sector are seeing rapidly improving sales and profits and the creation of a significant number of jobs.

Research findings today from KPMG, the accountants and business advisers, show that business entrepreneurs are now playing a big role in helping to put Britain back to work.

Looking at the filed financial accounts of a sample of 3,000 owner-managed businesses with annual turnovers of £2 million to £60 million, KPMG finds such firms increasing their operating profits 14 per cent, and turnover 13.5 per cent to £54.5 billion.

The study says that such growth allowed owner-managed companies last year to add an extra 37,000 jobs to their staff rolls — or an average of 12 new jobs for every firm.

Companies in the South East performed best overall, though the largest job increases were in the West, and the smallest in the North East. But the study shows that, even in smaller companies, boardroom salaries are still markedly outpacing those for employees generally, with a 9 per cent increase in company directors' pay compared with a 5.2 per cent rise for staff.

John Eggleston, KPMG head of services for owner-managed businesses, says the survey demonstrates the importance of the enterprise culture to the economy: "Businesses are displaying confidence in the future by investing in their products and the people to make them."

In a separate study, Reed Personnel, recruitment specialists, says that demand for permanent staff is up 16 per cent in the first quarter of this year — the highest quarterly increase since 1987.

The company tracks demand for both permanent and temporary staff by means of its employment index, drawing on statistics from its 200 branches. Reed's permanent index for the first three months of this year has risen from 75 points to 87, and demand now stands at its highest level since the fourth quarter of 1990, just before the UK plunged into recession.

But it is still only 70 per cent of the demand for staff at the height of the economic boom of the late 1980s. Demand for temporary staff is falling slightly, with the company's index down a percentage point in the first quarter, though this may reflect normal seasonal patterns.

Alec Reed, the company's chairman, says: "At long last, demand for permanent staff may be returning to pre-recession rates."

Broker highlights possible crash

By Fraser Nelson

TEATHER & Greenwood, the most active broker to companies on the Alternative Investment Market, has given a warning that the junior exchange may be on the brink of a mini-crash, and has advised its clients to buy fully listed stocks instead.

The broker, which acts for one in every nine of AIM's 260 companies, holds little hope that the FT-SE AIM index, which has lost 3 per cent of its value in the past month, will be able to mount a resurgence.

In the April edition of its smaller companies briefing, it says: "It is significant that the FT All-Share index has broken its down-trend against the FT-SE AIM index this month, confirming that it will continue to outperform this index in 1997. This is another reason for our suggesting that the FT-SE AIM index may have peaked."

It concludes: "Buy the FT All-Share index against the FT-SE AIM index."

The judgment, coming from the most influential AIM adviser, was met with astonishment in the City. Stephen Roberts, a market-maker at Winterflood Securities, said: "I have yet to see an AIM prediction that has turned out to be correct. With AIM, you can't invest in the market in general anyway — it's a matter of picking specific winners."

Nigel Popham, one of the authors of the report, said that his fears were based on concerns that many of the fledgling AIM stocks were fair-weather companies which may falter if the economic climate changes. He said: "We are trying to throw up points for debate. If we are not buyers of the market, we are certainly holders."

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	10.90	AFA Systems	109½	- 3		...
153½	148½	21.20	AMCO Corp	148½	- 1	5.2	10.8
422½	170	65.80	AND Intl Pub	307½	- 5	...	...
107½	84½	6.53	Abacus Recruit	100½		0.6	19.4
164½	99½	21.90	Access Plus	155½		3.9	20.3
100½	40½	7.41	Active Imaging	40½	- 4½		
200	200	29.50	A de Gruchy	200	..	3.9	15.0
11¼	9	9.52	African Gold	9½	- ¼	.	19.6
117½	82½	39.90	Airtech	87½	- 7		
44½	31¼	14.90	Albemarle & Bd	39½	- 1	0.8	17.0
50½	29½	8.21	Allzyme	47½	..		
111½	101½	3.10	Anglo-Welsh	101½	...	3.0	
525	455	48.10	Ann St Brewery	502½	...	4.9	11.3
1125	1015	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120	...	7.1	.
124½	65½	90.80	Antonov	124½	...		
148½	120½	21.10	Aortech	122½	- 2		
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	...	1.0	55.6
8	7	1.78	Arion Props	7½	...	...	55.4
115	30½	47.60	Ashurst	55	...	...	...
215	135½	34.60	Ask Central	215	+ 15	0.3	..
64½	64½	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	..	...	..
103½	86½	66.00	Avalon Oil	86½	- 3	...	...
144½	130½	44.60	BATM Adv Comms	143½	+ 3	2.1	...
59½	45½	8.97	Barbican Health	46½	...	.	...
9¾	6½	15.00	Barrasford	9¾	.	..	.
3¼	2¾	5.66	Beechcroft	3	- ¼	...	8.3
3¼	2½	6.23	Beaufort	3¼	..		34.5
76½	61½	5.52	Bilston Bttrsea	62	...	3.0	16.5
64	42½	23.00	Birmingham City	46	...	...	...
175	145	1.18	Bowness Leis	172½	.	3.3	7.4
62½	45½	8.68	Brancote Hdgs	50	.	...	...
93	88	3.79	Br Bloodstock	90	...	2.1	25.8
565	510	67.00	Brockbank	547½	- 10	1.9	13.4
168½	144½	17.30	CA Coutts Hldgs	162½	- 3¼	2.3	18.2
180	128½	8.97	C & B Publishing	175	...	...	...
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	..
179½	140½	1.44	CCI Hldgs	179½	+ 2	1.7	8.1
210½	170	5.00	Cafe Inns	175	- 5	1.7	13.5
70	55	7.96	Caledonian Tst	65	...	...	11.1
3½	3	3.25	Calidore Group	3¼	...	...	...
1½	0½	1.60	Calidore Grp Wts	1	...	...	..
17½	12¾	2.77	Cambridge Min Res	12¾	- ¾	...	.
51	29	44.20	Card Clear	48	- ½	...	47.5
97½	67½	6.84	Carisbrooke Ship	67½	..	6.5	6.4
62	52	3.11	Cassidy Bros	57	..	6.6	14.7
57½	52½	2.33	Cavendish W	53½	...	3.5	25.6
18	13	4.41	Celebrated Group	13¼	- ¾	2.5	11.7
£550	£305	88.40	Celtic	£305	-1000	...	.
£450	£275		Celtic Pf Shs	£275	..	..	...
111½	96½	14.40	Cl Comms(TV)	106½	.	3.3	12.6
65	54½	12.20	Charlton Athl	56	- 4½		..
9	6¼	8.00	Charterhouse	8	- ¼	..	16.7
37½	24½	3.81	Chartwell Intl	24½	- 3	.	.
170	114½	174.80	Chelsea Village	116½	- 2	.	.
265	145	15.00	Chemical Design	230	+ 5	..	
202½	75	8.15	Circle Comms	75	- 2½	...	5.7
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	.	...	72.7
2½	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½	.	..	..
542½	527½	12.70	Com de Prt Fin	527½	.	2.3	10.6
30	14	10.60	Concurrent Tech	22½	+ 1	0.6	35.5
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Prf	100	.	.	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Prf	100		...	.
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150		..	...
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	..	..	...
41	36½	8.60	Cornsler Tst	40	...	6.2	9.9
4¼	2	4.29	Corporate Exec	2¾		...	13.9
309½	153½	37.80	Country Gdns	205		1.0	...
160	117½	5.87	Cntry Gdns Pf	160	..	4.2	.
37½	22½	8.08	Creos Intl	22½		...	..
290	235	3.92	Crown Eye	245	+ 5	6.4	6.0
28½	15½	7.23	Crown Products	15½	- ½	...	38.8
20½	18½	0.89	Dalkeith Inns	18½	...	..	...
92½	84½	5.01	David Glass	92½	...	6.8	10.6
150	120½	5.27	Dawn Til Dusk	150	...	..	11.6
262½	215	134.00	Dawson Hldgs	240	+ 11¼	2.1	18.4
16½	10½	6.91	Dean Corp	15	- ½	4.3	...
174½	169½	10.60	Deep Sea Leisure	169½	...	.	22.7
3¼	2½	3.23	Deximaster	2½	...	...	16.6
460	395	51.50	Dicom	405	- 2½	0.5	16.6
105½	89½	15.40	Digital Anmtn	105	..	...	.
72½	50½	12.20	Dmatek	65	- 4½	..	...
270	240	12.20	Dobbies Garden	260	.	2.2	16.4
3¼	2¾	2.11	Drings of Bath	2¾	.	...	13.4
67½	49½	9.57	Easynet	66	+ 4½	.	...
445	207½	66.30	Elec Retail Sys	315	- 30	...	...
60½	36½	28.60	Electrophoretics	43½	- 4	..	...
52½	7½	1.98	Epic Multimedia	8½		..	.
65	50	14.20	Epicore Netwks	56	...	...	..
275	190	8.48	Eurasia Mining	227½	...	..	.
125	125	5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	..	...	..
175	165	17.20	Eve Group	175	...	1.1	...
350	270	6.86	Farlake	270	.	...	18.0
77½	47½	3.54	Fayrewood	67½	...	0.7	13.3
191½	130½	59.30	Fibernet	159½	..	...	.
69½	52½	2.77	Fieldens	55½	..	3.4	7.3
242½	205	5.48	Finl Pubis	232½	...	...	8.1
14½	11½	2.59	First Index	12¾	...	.	...
200	109½	50.90	Fitness First	185	+ 10½	.	72.5
230	165	4.35	Florencis	170	..	2.2	13.9
292½	272½	8.35	Floral St	277½	- 5	0.7	19.8
32½	27½	5.53	FNR Hldgs	27½	- 5	...	
152½	115½	13.20	Formscan	124½	- ½	3.3	12.5
110½	89½	9.44	Fountain Forest	107½		.	18.6
51¼	41¾	222.70	Freepages	46	+ 1½	.	...
180½	140½	10.50	Furlong Homes	175½	+ 1	2.4	12.0
144½	124½	15.30	Future Intl Telep	137½	..	.	...
296	129½	13.40	GB Railways	153½	- 1½	...	...
55½	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	..	...	9.9
15¾	11½	40.80	Gander Hdgs	14	+ ¼	...	...
107	82½	71.80	Gartland W&B	82½	- 1½	0.5	7.5
102	54½	68.50	Geo Int Media	68½	- 15	.	...
27¾	12	30.70	Gold Mines Sard	23¾	- 3¼	.	...
17	7	7.50	Gold Mns Sard Wts	14	- 2	.	..
124½	120½	42.20	Goshawk Insce	124½	..	...	...
15¼	14¾	1.72	Grosvenor Ltd	14¾	..	...	
148	140	32.70	Guilton	145	+ 5	4.1	..
330	265	32.40	HIT Entertain	290	...	0.2	.
8	5¾	2.20	Hansom	5¾	..		
175	155	11.50	Hardy Undwrtg	156½	- 1½	.	
77½	54½	3.33	Hat Pin	75½	- 2	4.5	12.1
315	275	7.12	Heavitree	315	.	2.8	16.4
270	245	10.70	Heavitree A	265	...	3.3	13.8
160	110	5.27	Hercules Prop	160	+ 15	.	8.7
175	105	11.50	Highams Sys	130	+ 5	.	19.0
123	115	147.80	Hiscox	120	- 1	2.6	.
75	75	1.16	Hurlingham	75	...		...
107½	104½	7.10	Hydro-Dynamic	105½	...	1.4	...
172½	138	24.50	IES	161	- 3	1.2	50.0
77½	66½	17.20	Ind Brit Health	67½	...	1.9	9.5
74½	55½	9.78	Indpt Energy	74½	+ 1	..	.
133½	116½	22.90	Indpt Radio	128½	+ 1	..	.
179	141½	31.00	Infobank Intl	161	..	..	
60½	42½	11.80	Inner Workings	60½	...	...	...
79½	62½	16.00	Intelligent Env	71½	+ 7	..	..
102	42½	27.70	Internet Tech	100½	+ 17	..	..
151½	35½	12.20	Interoute Tele	36½	- 2	.	
285	227½	32.70	Intl Greetings	260	...	2.6	14.6
179½	144½	35.50	IOC Intl	145	- 5½	..	44.7
155½	122½	12.80	Jardinerie Ints	144½	...	.	
74½	62½	3.04	Jasmin	74½	+ 2		12.3
347	290	25.40	Jennings Bros	345	- 1	2.5	23.7
4¼	3¾	5.53	J Lewis Hford	4		..	21.4
62½	52½	8.49	Jordec	52½	..		..
5¼	2	5.76	Just Group	3¾	- ½		...
132½	91½	52.00	KS Biomedix	125½	- 2	.	..
50½	47½	5.46	Kern River	47½		.	
132½	77½	27.60	La Senza	82½	+ 2		...
150	130	25.50	Lancashire En	140		3.9	13.3
385	340	21.50	Lawrence	350		2.6	18.0
3350	3150	62.50	Lawrie Group	3350		2.6	10.2
358	326	58.70	Le Riches Strs	354	+ 3	5.9	14.9
14	9	0.45	Lile Numbers	9	- 1	...	..
4	2	0.06	Lile Numbrs Wts	2	- 1		
535	480	10.70	Loades	535		0.2	50.7
106½	61½	24.10	Lotus Road	65	..		
12¾	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¾		2.7	9.9
75	70	1.88	London Town	75		2.7	14.6
87½	37½	11.00	Loox	47½	- 9	..	
3¼	2¼	3.89	Lotteryking	2¼		..	28.6
1	0¼	0.13	Lotteryking Wts	0¼	..		
88	58	8.98	MMS Petroleum	74	..	..	
175	147½	31.90	MTL Inst	175	+ 3	3.6	.
27½	14½	7.98	Magnum Power	17½	+ 2½	...	
290½	247½	33.00	Majestic Wine	258½	+ 1		11.2
19½	9½	8.37	Marx & O'seas	14		2.9	26.7
105	105	2.40	Matrix Hlthcare	105		8.0	12.1
13¼	10¼	4.41	Mears Group	12¼	- 1	2.1	...
93½	88½	53.90	Megalomedia	92½	.	..	51.9
86½	83½	0.93	Megalomedia Wts	85	.		
67½	49½	3.45	Mellek	49½		6.3	36.5
65	33½	28.80	Memory Corp	47½	+ 10	.	..
16½	7½	5.01	Meteor Tech	7½			...
15	8	0.15	Meteor Tech Wts	8	.	.	..
50	46	4.06	Methven's	48	...	...	.
25	20	5.88	Metrodome	24	...	...	
84½	77½	4.73	Mondas	78½	..		
410	280	31.10	Moorepay	410	+ 6¼	1.6	36.0
112	90	7.27	Mountcashel	96	- 2	...	8.4
215	169½	36.40	Mulberry Group	183½	- 1	0.5	28.7
40	10½	3.17	MultiMedia	11	- ½		
21	17	1.40	NECA	19		3.3	8.2
54½	52½	21.40	NMT	54½			
72½	67½	1.94	NRP	67½	- 3	1.9	29.8
265	235	17.90	NWF Grp	235	- 10	5.7	12.1
200	190	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	..	4.3	8.2
300	290	7.44	Neill Clark	290		3.4	10.5
75½	45½	10.10	Netcall	72½	- 2	..	..
242	185½	72.60	Network Tech	225½	+ 10	0.2	32.1
80½	75½	1.50	Norhomes	77½	..		24.0
50½	30½	4.52	Nthn Petlm	39½	..	..	
28½	28½	1.71	Northstar Sec	28½	.		
5	3	0.10	Northstar Sec Wts	5			
118½	112½	45.80	Nursing Home	115½	..	4.0	26.4
239½	210	41.90	Old English Pub	236½	- 1	0.8	74.3
135	102½	15.10	Omnicare	127½	.	1.6	.
10½	6½	1.97	Omnimedia	8	..	...	..
97½	50½	2.10	On Line	52½	- 12	...	...
65½	39½	25.30	Oxford Biomedica	39½	- 5	..	..
3¾	1¾	39.30	Pacific Media	3	+ ¼	..	.
69½	45½	23.20	Pan Andean Res	52½	- 7	...	...
225	220	5.38	Park Ests(Liv)	225		4.4	16.4
25½	14	6.23	Pembertons	22½	- 1½	...	..
57½	40½	6.90	Personal No Co	44½		...	.
137½	92½	46.20	Philippine Gd	122½	+ 25		
59½	52½	12.20	Pilat Tech	54½	+ 2		15.2
138½	113½	25.30	Polymasc Pharms	126½	...	...	...
2¾	1½	3.28	Pordum Foods	1½	...	...	...
1½	1	0.22	Pordum Fds Wts	1	...	...	...
22	13	11.30	Premier Asst Mgmt	20¼	+ ¾	.	71.3
3	2½	3.15	Prestbury Leis	2½	..	16.0	10.1
590	540	10.90	Preston Nth E	560	..	..	...
104½	102½	16.60	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	..	1.4	...
590	295	73.00	Prism Rail	335	+ 5	..	..
122½	115½	19.30	Q Group	115½	..	.	.
1265	945	206.00	Ramco Egy	1005	- 15	0.1	.
110½	77½	11.00	Raphael Zrn	102½	- 2	2.4	11.6
127½	94½	20.20	Recycling Servs	124½		3.2	..
131½	106½	9.99	Reflec	131½		..	
5½	4¼	2.85	Revelation Pic	4½		.	4.3
45	17½	25.70	Riceman Insce	39	+ 5	...	...
80½	77½	4.03	Romtec	77½	..	3.0	18.2
2¼	2	2.45	Rushmere Wynne	2¼		...	...
0¾	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	...	...	..
155½	152½	17.90	SCi Ent	153½	..	...	...
42½	24½	5.54	SEA Multimedia	24½	...	..	.
72½	62½	6.77	Sanctuary Music	70½	..	...	9.1
12½	5½	0.52	Scotswood Inds	7½	.	8.3	.
57½	44½	6.95	Scott Pickford	55	.	2.0	19.8
60½	42½	13.40	Scott Pride	42½	.	.	
6	3¾	9.62	Screen	5	.	...	20.6
350	320	16.30	Scudiens	340		4.9	19.2
80	72	15.60	Selector	80	+ 8	..	.
30½	22½	1.31	Self Sealing	22½	...	..	
177½	154½	8.53	Shabbana	177½		2.8	14.5
104½	74½	4.96	Shelton (M)	93½	+ 1	5.7	11.3
16	12½	39.50	Sibir Energy	15½	- ½	..	.
233½	208½	27.50	Sinclair Montrs	226½	+ 3		
4½	2¼	7.68	Sira Bus Serv	3½		1.7	24.7
1½	1	0.29	Sira Bus Wts	1½			..
3¾	1¾	12.00	Skateboard	1¾	..	...	
84½	80½	5.03	Solid State Sp	80½	...	4.3	13.4
34½	28½	3.38	Soundtracs	33½	..	3.0	19.8
783	619½	186.10	Southern News	780		2.9	25.3
70½	65½	13.50	Southern Vectis	70½	...	3.4	15.2
260½	173½	24.00	Statware	207½	+ 6	0.6	...
635	427½	92.10	Stanford Rook	477½	- 22½		...
172½	127½	10.70	Stentor	151½	- 2	...	
496	410	49.10	Surrey Fr Inns	442½	- 2½	0.7	30.6
152	127	15.10	Sutton Harbour	151	.	1.0	21.5
22	15½	2.08	Syst Integ Rsch	15½	..	.	
23	18½	4.59	TDS Circuits	21¾	.		10.0
97½	67½	13.00	Theo Fennell	80½	...	..	20.7
14	9½	24.30	Thomas Potts	13½	- ¼	0.5	..
32½	25½	2.10	Tom Hoskins	27½	.		
158½	150½	24.90	Total Office	155	- ½	3.9	10.0
595	375	31.50	TRACKER Netwrk	595	+ 40	.	...
120	90	25.80	Tradepoint Fcl	120	+ 5	..	..
167	160	4.89	Trinity Care	160	- 2	3.8	11.5
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	..	5.5	..
60½	33½	176.40	Trocadero	35½	+ ½	..	.
298	205½	37.50	UNO	267½	- 5	2.0	31.8
40	40	3.65	Univent	40	..	...	21.0
387½	357½	6.90	Utd Auctions	387½	.	2.6	..
280	160	16.90	VDC	163	+ 3	4.0	13.0
29¾	20¾	74.60	Versailles Grp	29¾	...	0.8	27.5
53	48	91.90	Victory Corp	48½	.	..	
242½	97½	3.38	Viewinn	112½	.	...	..
240	220	5.91	Voss Net	220	...	...	...
90	51	23.00	Waterfall	89	+ 5	..	23.4
34	27	6.41	Watermark	34	+ 6	3.0	11.8
32	9½	7.46	Wedderburn Secs	27	- 1	..	..
17	1¼	0.42	Wedd Secs Wts	12	.		
7	5¼	6.91	Weeks Group	5¼	.	3.1	8.8
115	75	2.90	West 175 Enter	75	.	...	...
£280	£180	14.60	West Bromwich	£200		...	30.9
12½	12½	6.56	Western Selectn	12½	.	..	13.5
4½	4½	0.38	Western Sel Wts	4½	..	...	...
99½	44½	10.80	Westmount Engy	99½	+ 9	.	..
89½	80½	3.32	Whitecross	80½	- 2	..	
245	205	34.10	Whitlard Chelsea	215	...	1.4	25.6
70½	45½	7.58	W'chester M Md	65	- ½	..	...
192	168	41.40	World Telecom	192	+ 4	..	
135	120	4.26	Wynnstay Props	135	+ 5	4.3	19.3
12	10	5.23	Xavier Comp	10	..	.	.
157½	132½	6.68	Yeoman	132½	..		...
300	290	26.70	Zergo	290	...	...	72.8
29½	17½	4.03	Zicor Mining	17½	...	...	...

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

The next housing slowdown is on the way

ROGER BOOTLE

Dinner tables are again abuzz with talk of rising house prices. Choose your area carefully and you could believe that the late Eighties are back again — letters from estate agents begging you to sell, gazumping and tales of friends having to take days off work to ensure that when they see the property they want they can transact immediately. Do not be decieved. The days of rampant house price inflation are gone for good. A cruel fate awaits those who have not learnt the lessons of the late 1980s.

First the facts. According to the Halifax, house prices have, on average, risen by 7.2 per cent in the year to March. According to the Nationwide, the figure is 9.7 per cent. Moreover, that relic of the housing slump, the forced repossession, has become much less common, while negative equity has been disappearing like the melting snow. Look in any estate agent's window and you will see the results. Remember those properties which had been hanging around for years as their owners clung on desperately to what they thought their property had been worth in 1989? Even some of these are now moving.

The next stage, for those who can remember housing booms of the past, is when people talk about having to buy now or face never being able to "get on the ladder again". Later, people who already own substantial houses fret about having to buy another property for fear that their children will never be able to afford to buy. In my experience, that signals the absolute peak of the market.

I doubt if it will get that bad again. Although the market is now genuinely much stronger, this is not before time. The current recovery still leaves most properties worth less than they were at the peak in 1989.

Besides, in contrast to the estate agents' hype, the housing market recovery is now slowing. On the Halifax figures, in the latest three months, seasonally adjusted, house prices rose by about 1 per cent, compared with 2.75 per cent in the previous quarter. Furthermore, last week's figures from the building societies showed the level of mortgage approvals, which is a guide to housing market activity and prices in a few months' time, continuing to fall.

It is true that price rises in London have been much larger than the national average — 17 per cent on average for Greater London. Moreover, tales abound of 30 and 40 per cent increases in Kensington and Chelsea, which those on the wine bar circuit are inclined to take as some index of conditions more generally.

Yet not only are Kensington and Chelsea not all there is to the UK, but in an economic sense, I am tempted to say that they are not part of the UK at all. They represent London's international city, located here but dancing to a different beat. Prospective buyers from across the world — Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, Germany, the Middle East and the US — compare properties there with equivalents at home and with alternatives in Paris, Rome, New York and Tokyo. Over the last few years they have been swarming over properties in central London and engaging in a bidding war.

If, however, you are trying to sell No 39 Acacia Avenue, Penge, I doubt whether you have been besieged by Russians bearing suitcases full of cash.

In fact, even central London may be set to cool. The reason is partly that prices have risen so far already, but it is also the influence of the exchange rate, which is up by some 20 per cent over the last year. If you are comparing London prices with equivalents abroad this has to be added to the 30 or 40 per cent increase in sterling prices. On a foreign currency basis, central London prices may be up by 50 or 60 per cent on the year.

However, the real reason for believing that we are not on the brink of another national house price explosion is the connection between the property market and the economy in general. House price rises of 10 per cent or more do not mix with 2 per cent general inflation. One or other has to give. Now you may believe that in this country rapid rates of house price rises are more deep-rooted than sustained low inflation. Accordingly, if something has to give, it will be inflation.

Have I got news for you? The transformation in official attitudes to inflation in general and the housing market in particular is profound.

Once the election is out of the way, no matter who wins it, if the pace of economic recovery does not show signs of slowing of its own accord, then policy action will be taken to slow it. This means higher interest rates, higher taxes, or both. And waiting in the wings is the possible abolition of mortgage interest rate tax relief, which Treasury officials have been desperate to do to death for years.

The moral is clear. Do not make the same mistake twice. Owner occupation remains an extremely good deal, but property speculation is not a licence to print money. The supposedly unstoppable housing boom of 1988 quickly turned into the soggy market of 1989 and then the disaster of 1990.

In these times of sustained low inflation you would do well to keep in mind the warning which would have been well-heeded in 1988. As they say in another context: "Remember, prices can go down as well as up."

☐ Roger Bootle's book, *The Death of Inflation - Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era*, will be published in paperback on April 24 at £9.99 by Nicholas Brealey (0171-430 0224).

Row overshadows last AGM of mutual Halifax

BY NATHAN YATES

THE last annual meeting of the Halifax Building Society, taking place today before the £10 billion stock market flotation in June, will be marked by a row with disaffected members.

Directors of the demutualising society face fierce criticism over instructions from the board to the Halifax's 8.5 million voting members. A document included with the AGM invitation urges members not to cast their votes for two candidates who have had a sceptical attitude towards flotation.

The document identifies board nominees Serge Lourie and Peter Judge, leaders of the anti-demutualisation Halifax Action Group, as a threat to windfall payouts. It claims that, even if elected, the two men would have no boardroom role after the society converts to plc status in June.

The move has outraged the Halifax Action Group, which will mount a protest at today's AGM, at Halifax's Victoria Theatre. "The board are carrying out a smear campaign against us, and we will be confronting them about these comments," said Mr Lourie, who has campaigned against the flotation since its inception.

He added: "It is a ridiculous overreaction to say we pose a threat to free share handouts. And it is disgraceful to suggest that we would be excluded from the board of Halifax plc. We have as much right to stand as anyone else."

Mr Lourie claims that demutualisation will mean poorer deals for Halifax customers, with lower rates on savings accounts and higher mortgage costs. He will table a motion at today's meeting designed to prevent the use of flotation proceeds to boost directors' salaries to "fat cat" levels.

The Halifax denies that conversion would fuel salary rises or damage services. "The decision to become a plc has been arrived at democratically, and the overwhelming majority of members do not support the views of Mr Lourie and Mr Judge," a spokesman said. Jon Foulds, Halifax chairman, said: "It is sad that such a great organisation as the Halifax Building Society is ending on a tone of acrimony."

Directors do not expect today's row to derail the demutualisation process. Halifax members approved conversion to plc status in February by a majority of 97 per cent, and the society is on course to become the country's fifth-largest bank. Tomorrow, the Halifax will start to inform members of their share allocations, giving them the option to sell, hold or place their shares in a personal equity plan (Pep).

Savers and borrowers who had more than £100 in their accounts on the qualifying dates will receive 200 shares each, with a predicted value of £1,500. Members with more than £1,000 in their accounts on the same dates will receive an additional variable bonus.

Bank boards face tough questions

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DIRECTORS at Barclays and NatWest will face tough questions from shareholders tomorrow when the two banks hold their respective annual general meetings.

NatWest investors, in particular, are expected to press the board, led by Lord Alexander of Weedon, about the £90 million "black hole" found in the derivatives department of the bank's market trading arm last month. They will want to know why the huge discrepancy went undetected for more than two years and how a repeat will be prevented.

The black hole will be central to a speech by Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, who is standing for election to the board. He said: "I will ask shareholders to choose between someone who lost £90 million or someone who readily admits to losing £25 of his own money on the 3.15 race at Kempton."

The Barclays board will be quizzed on when BZW, the bank's global investment banking arm, might be expected to show the rewards from the massive investment programme in both systems and highly paid executives that have been put in place over the past year. When Barclays unveiled its annual results in February, it reported that BZW's contribution had fallen by £85 million to £204 million.

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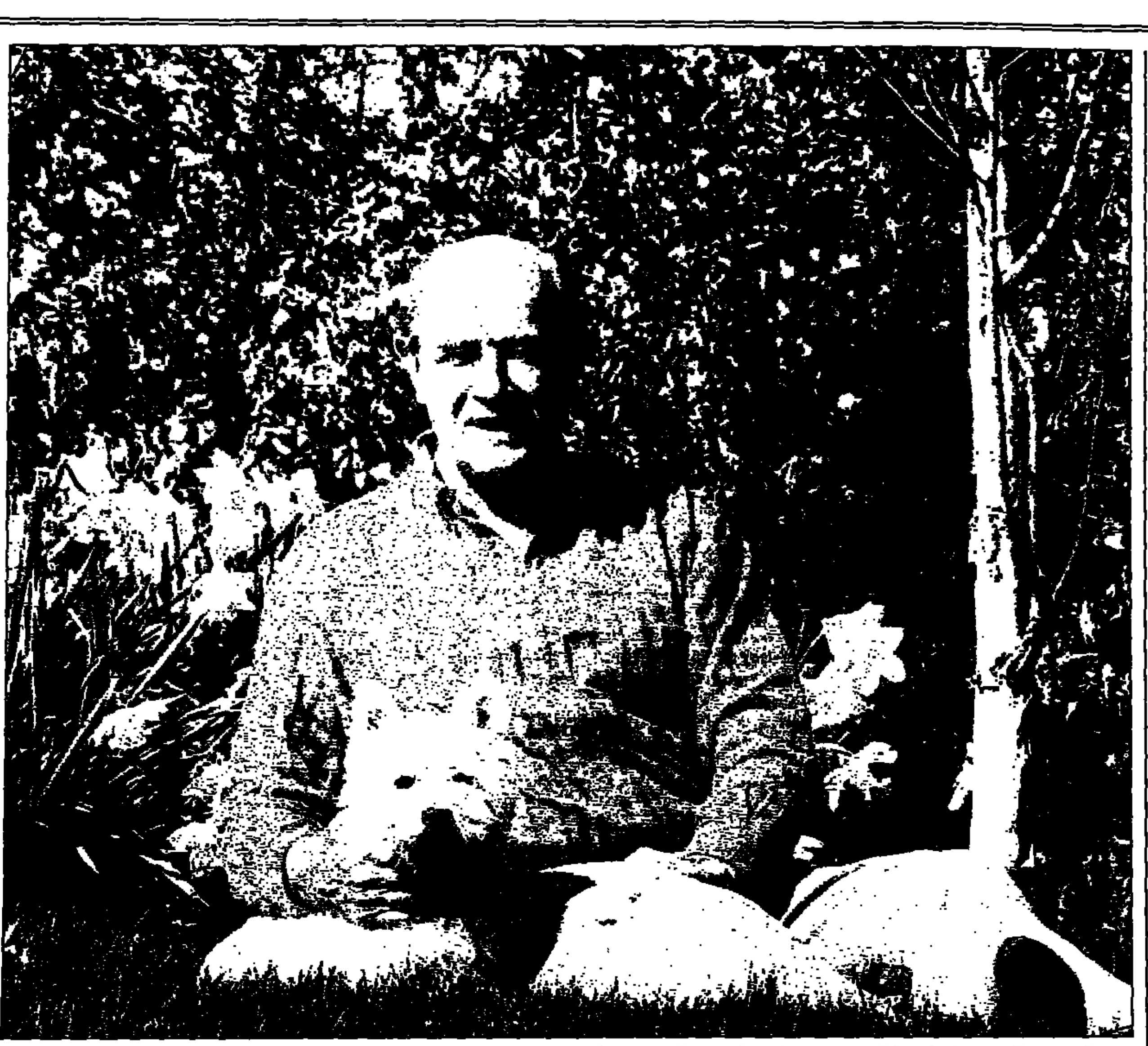

Peter Kininmonth, who has set up an insurance brokerage at the age of 73, takes time out at his 1,200-acre Dorset farm

Three times a broker

AT the tender age of 73, Peter Kininmonth is going for third time lucky on the Lloyd's insurance market. Having founded two firms and at an age when most would be enjoying retirement, Mr Kininmonth has started a new insurance broker. P W Kininmonth, which has signed its first senior executives, is launched today.

"I am building up a company with the intention of losing control of it to those who created it," he said. "After all, the actuaries tell me that I shall no longer be here in ten years."

Set-top boxes near to launch

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM and BSkyB are on the verge of creating a £500 million company designed to hasten the market penetration of hundreds of new digital-TV channels.

The Interactive Services Company (Isco) is being formed to subsidise the retail price of set-top boxes that customers will need to receive and decode digital channels. The boxes will probably carry a price tag of £200, compared to a factory price of £500 or more.

BT has been in negotiations with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, for five months and is expected to emerge as Isco's single biggest shareholder. BSkyB, Midland Bank and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company will own the rest. Their collective investment will probably range from £400 million to £600 million, all of which will be used to subsidise the boxes.

In return, Isco's four owners are to share in the revenue generated by the interactive services, such as home banking and home shopping, made possible by the set-top boxes.

Isco's shareholders may also subsidise and market the set-top boxes to be used by British Digital Broadcasting it if wins the licence to offer digital terrestrial channels. BDB is owned by Carlton and Granada, the two largest ITV companies, and BSkyB.

Isco will have to be launched in the next month or so if the boxes are to be in the shops by Christmas.

Eurotunnel holds out hopes for refinancing

Eurotunnel will this week provide shareholders with an upbeat assessment of current trading and hold out hope that the long-delayed refinancing with the company's banks may soon be agreed.

The company is producing figures for the 1996 financial year that will be of only academic interest, showing a reduction on the Channel Tunnel operator's record £925 million pre-tax loss for 1995. The City will be reassured by news of encouraging traffic figures after the dip caused by the fire in November.

By June the tunnel should be running at full capacity again, once heavy goods vehicles are allowed back through in time for the key summer season. Eurotunnel's banks are thought to be ready to sign the refinancing deal announced in October, which will mean heavy dilution for ordinary shareholders but put an end to long-running talks about financial reconstruction, and Patrick Ponsolle, the chairman, is expected to have good news on this as well.

Imro invests

The City watchdog responsible for imposing a record £2 million fine on Morgan Grenfell last week is to step up its regulatory role by investing heavily in new staff. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) revealed yesterday that it had already doubled the number of people employed in supervision and intended to allocate further "considerable resources" in 1997 and 1998. Imro fined Morgan Grenfell after the scandal surrounding Peter Young, the unit trust manager who was sacked for gross misconduct last autumn after it emerged he had broken City rules on investing. Phillip Thorpe, Imro chief executive, said the "professionals in the regulatory business are the key to our success as a frontline regulator".

Pay stable

Pay awards in the manufacturing sector have remained broadly stable, according to a new CBI survey, averaging 3.2 per cent for the three months to March 1997, unchanged from the previous three months, and down from 3.5 per cent for the three months to March 1996. Almost four in ten manufacturers said low prices were keeping pay awards down: up from a third in the previous survey. Pay awards in the services sector fell slightly, from 3.8 per cent in the three months to December to 3.7 per cent in the three months to March.

Clark settles

John Clark, former chief executive of BET, has ended his legal battle with Rentokil Initial by accepting an out-of-court settlement that will give him £2.25 million in compensation. Mr Clark, 55, rejected a £950,000 payment from Rentokil last year, when it won BET in a £2.3 billion hostile takeover, and then went on to win a £2.85 million award in the High Court. Rentokil said the award was excessive but pursued a negotiated settlement to avoid further court costs.

East Midlands backs down on director's contract terms

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEGAL fight between two electricity companies has ended after East Midlands backed down from holding a key director to tight contract obligations which would have prevented him joining The Energy Group for two years.

The climbdown, which came just after the brink of a High Court action, has important implications for how companies can bind employees to contracts after East Midlands relinquished its demand that its managing director of supply serve a year's notice on garden leave and take a further year out of the power industry.

Jim Keohane, who moves in October to The Energy Group, where John Devaney is chief executive and managing director, had been employed on the basis that he would give a year's notice in his resignation and would then be prohibited from working for a rival company for another year. East Midlands had issued a writ against Mr Keohane which would have stopped him leading supply at The Energy Group and devising that company's 1998 programme. Mr Keohane had been instrumental in drafting East Midlands' market plans.

Devaney: critical time

The clash between the two businesses came at a critical time — when both are planning strategies for next year's liberalisation of household electricity. Then the companies, which are now monopolies, will be rivals in a free-for-all market.

But the demand from East Midlands that Mr Keohane should serve that notice away from his work was challenged by lawyers. They argued that his skills would have suffered if he spent such a long spell out of work. East Midlands also let pass the stipulation that he should not join a rival company for a year.

Mr Keohane has been on garden leave from East Midlands since resigning in January. Neither East Midlands nor The Energy Group would comment on the dispute.

Institute urges a rethink over pensions

THE next government should borrow all the £33 billion a year needed to pay state pensions or raise it through consumption taxes such as VAT in order to privatise the basic state pension much faster than Conservatives have proposed, a new plan by American economists urges (Graham Searjeant writes).

The proposal, published by the Adam Smith Institute, would more than double the public sector borrowing requirement throughout the next Parliament or require VAT rates to rise by two thirds. The free-market think-tank says this would be much better than levying national insurance contributions to pay the pensions and would leave everyone better off.

By allowing people to use the national insurance contributions to save for private pensions or to spend, the reform would at least double the rate of growth of the economy, so that extra borrowing need only last for ten years.

Names group sues Lloyd's for larger slice of refund

BY ADAM JONES

A NAMES action group whose members include Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, who has been tipped as a possible Lloyd's chief, is suing Lloyd's of London over expenses incurred in litigation and the last-ditch restructuring of the society. The action is expected to be the first of several from names' bodies.

Sir Richard Body, the Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, is appearing as the nominal plaintiff on behalf of the 100 members of the Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group. The group will today serve Lloyd's with a writ demanding a payment of £1,564,227.

The action group had originally claimed £5.4 million from a £75 million pool set aside by Lloyd's in the reconstruction and renewal arrangements. It has been paid £2.6 million and the sum now being claimed represents a scaled-down overall demand.

Ian Chalk, chairman of the action group, said: "A number of action groups are dissatisfied with the way they have been treated over refunds." He said Lloyd's had failed to answer enquiries and that other action groups received much more consultation over expenses claims.

Lang: tipped for top job

Lloyd's said it received claims of £106 million for the £75 million set aside for refunds. A spokesman said there was no more money for groups unhappy with their scaled-down awards: "I don't know where we would get it from."

The breakdown Lloyd's provided when paying the £2.6 million showed it had slashed the amount claimed by members of the action group's committee for professional services and remuneration. The committee, which includes Sir David Berriman, the former Lloyd's chairman, had requested £2 million and received just £277,000. The writ said this was "unfair, arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable".

Pengkalen director fights for sweet justice

BY MARTIN WALLER

A LONDON businessman has taken up the cudgels on behalf of 500 minority shareholders in a defunct sweetmaker controlled by a large Malaysian conglomerate.

Michael Rowan is non-executive director of Pengkalen (UK) — until he carries out his intention to resign at the company's annual meeting on April 24. This he says he will do only if a letter he has written to the company secretary of Pengkalen, and its only identifiable employee left in the UK, is read to the meeting.

If not, he will stay on and defy the Malaysian owners of the company to fire him.

Pengkalen was one of a number of forgotten, extinct companies that still litter the Stock Exchange trading screens until its 83 per cent controlling shareholder, Malaysian United International, had the shares delisted last month.

This has left the minority shareholders, described by Mr Rowan as "mainly widows, orphans and trustees", with no means of exit. The shares had been suspended since October, at a price that values the minority holdings at just £325,000.

Mr Rowan, who says he has been frozen out by the remaining directors and not even given notice of the board meeting that approved the last report and accounts, wants this sum at least paid to the minority shareholders he represents. MIU, which bought the company as part of a hostile takeover of a much larger Malaysian group last August, was unavailable for comment.

Pengkalen, once known as Grand Central Investment, owned the Meltis sweets brand, maker of the once-popular New Berry Fruits range, but the receivers went in at Meltis in April.

The Stock Exchange said that after delisting a company ceased to be covered by its rules. But Mr Rowan added: "It exposes to my mind a big loophole in the protection offered by the Stock Exchange."

For The Direct
Mortgage
see page 14

Alliance & Leicester joins the big boys on the block

Caroline Merrell

on the stormy transition to the high street and where the A&L goes from here

BUILDING SOCIETY PAYOUTS

Building Society	1997 Flotation Date	Number of Beneficiaries	Market Capitalisation
ALLIANCE + LEICESTER	April 21	2.4 million	£2,758 million
HALIFAX	June 2	8.5 million	£11,561 million
NORTHERN ROCK	October 1	900,000	£1,185 million
WOOLWICH	July 7	2.57 million	£3,106 million
ABBEY NATIONAL	n/ a	n/a	£10,111 million
NORWICH UNION	June	3 million	£5 billion

Alliance & Leicester makes its stock market debut today, the first of the building societies to float in the £20 billion demutualisation bonanza of 1997. It has taken the society 18 frenzied months to prepare to shed its 144-year-old tradition of mutuality.

This period has been marked by considerable controversy, including a row with Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, over the Building Societies Act 1997 and resistance from larger savers to the structure of the share scheme.

Investors, such as the Duke of Rutland, objected to the democratic system of distribution under which all qualifying savers and borrowers received an equal number of 250 shares each.

The row with Mrs Knight was settled by the gift of a Christmas pudding. Some of the larger savers are still simmering with rage.

To inform these customers and the rest of its membership, about the flotation mechanism, the A&L consumed more than 800 tonnes of environmentally friendly paper. The transfer documents, mailed out in October, filled 37 lorries alone.

However, the trees have not died in vain. The projected market capitalisation of the society has risen from around £2.5 billion to £2.9 billion since the transfer document was mailed out in October. The shares are now expected to climb to 520p, compared with the 385p to 435p price estimated six months ago by JP Morgan, A&L's City advisers.

The share price may well be given a further boost on June 23, when the new bank joins the All Share index. At that point, the index tracking funds, which together hold between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the shares in the UK market, will chase A&L shares.

Stockbroking analysts attribute the rise in the expected value of the bank to a recovery in the banking sector. Over the past six months, the housing market has begun to show some real signs of sustained recovery. Nearly two-thirds of Alliance & Leicester's £359 million total profit came from mortgage lending and investments.

However, profit margins on this side of the business are likely to be under intense pressure over the next few years, as competition from other organisations, including those remaining mutual, grows fiercer.

Abbey National, for example, the first building society to float in 1989, has seen its share of the new mortgage market drop from 12.5 per cent last year to 2.5 per cent this year. It said it had not offered particularly competitive products this year, because it felt that most of the new business around consisted of remortgages, which do not add substantially to profits.

The new high street bank will be substantially smaller than its neighbours and many analysts believe that it will find it difficult to compete in an already overcrowded market.

For instance, Lloyds TSB has a market capitalisation of £26 billion, Barclays £16 billion, and NatWest £12 billion. Alliance & Leicester is also dwarfed by the £10 billion Abbey National, and the Halifax, which is expected to have a market capitalisation of £11 billion when it floats in the summer.

The Alliance & Leicester does not have the brand image enjoyed by the Halifax, which has a relationship with one in five households in the UK. The powerful Halifax also sets the price of mortgages for the whole industry.

The A&L expects its profits to reach £368 million this year and £413 million in 1998. It is also planning to operate a progressive dividend policy. The dividend has been set for 16p. The 2.2 million members of the society have been substantially rewarded with 250 shares for relinquishing membership.

Perhaps the most handsomely rewarded beneficiaries of the flotation will be the five-strong executive team. They, alone among the management teams of the four floating societies, are rewarding themselves with share options. The granting of the options will be dependent on the Alliance & Leicester achieving certain performance targets.

> ‘These shares could benefit from merger acquisition and takeover activity’

One of the targets is growth in earnings per share of 3 per cent above inflation. Brokers believe that this will be easily achievable. A takeover or merger would also lead to the share options being exercised.

Executive salaries will also be boosted by a bonus scheme. As much as 40 per cent of executive salary could be earned in this way. Peter White, group chief executive, earned £592,000 last year in a mixture of salary, bonus and benefits.

The society is unique among those converting in that it already has experience of retail banking through its Girobank subsidiary. This bank contributed 18 per cent of the total pre-tax profits to the society last year.

BZW said: "It is the market leader in corporate cash transmission and processed more than £70 billion in 1996. Girobank handles cash, cheques, credit card payments for the corporate customers in retailing, wholesaling and other business sectors.

"Cash is collected through Post Offices. Girobank also offers a 24-hour telephone banking service, unlike the other floating societies. Unsecured personal loans are also available. Personal banking contributed 20 per cent to profits."

Justin Urquhart Stewart, managing director of Barclays Stockbrokers, thinks that Alliance & Leicester shares are a hold. He said: "A&L is an experienced bank; the shares are ones to be kept. This is better than a sale of the family silver. It's the sale of the family silver."

After the flotation of the society the management intends to grow the business organically and through cost reduction. The Alliance & Leicester has already cut branches by 11 per cent and reduced staff by 1 per cent over the past two years.

The society has a high cost to income ratio of 51 per cent on its core loans and mortgage business and 82 per cent on its Girobank subsidiary. This compares with the 33 per cent ratio achieved by Northern Rock. A&L is committed to reducing costs by 10 per cent in the next 12 months. It is unwilling to commit itself to retaining all of its 10,000 or more staff.

Woolwich, which is bigger than A&L, employs 7,451, down 11 per cent on the previous year.

Shareholders in the Alliance & Leicester could also benefit from a takeover. Unlike the Halifax, the A&L has not waived its right to five-year protection from takeover.

However, this right will disappear if a purchase of another company is made, or if the bidder gets more than 75 per cent of the shares. BZW, the broker, believes that a bid could push share prices to between 620p to 685p, valuing the bank at £4 billion.

The A&L may take a gamble on making a purchase, hoping that it, too, will not become a victim of a predator. It may prefer to go for a big merger or a joint venture, which will provide some sort of protection against a bidder.

Mr Urquhart Stewart said: "These shares could benefit from merger acquisition and takeover activity."

He and others believe that increasing competition from the mutual societies, which in theory should be able to offer better savings and mortgage rates, will not have much impact on the performance of the demutualised societies. He said: "They will be much more nimble than the mutual organisations."

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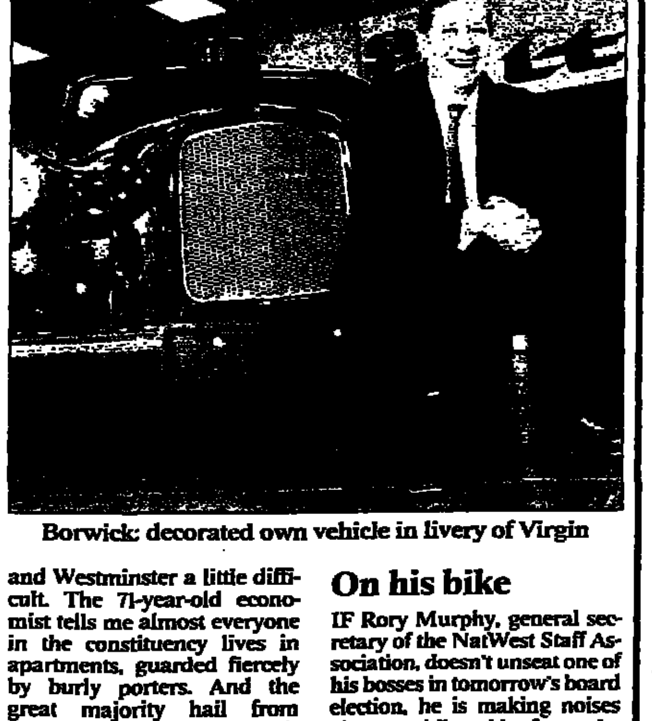
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Virgin rebuffs cab pick-up

JAMIE BORWICK's bid to impress Richard Branson has backfired. The chief executive of Manganese Bronze, the cabmakers, went to extraordinary lengths to show his enthusiasm for a deal to ferry Virgin passengers from the airport. Off his own bat, Borwick decorated a cab in Virgin colours. The first Branson knew of it was when Will Whitehorn, his corporate affairs director, spotted it in the City. But Branson neither wanted to buy the cab nor cut a deal; Virgin has an arrangement with Tristar. All is not lost: Borwick was given a first-class ticket to anywhere and there's always Virgin's rail business.


Borwick: decorated own vehicle in livery of Virgin

Party-poopers

FOR the first time politicians will not be present at Wednesday's Institute of Directors annual convention. This year it will be Robert Ayling, of British Airways, Stuart Hampson, of the John Lewis Partnership, and Daniel Wagner, of MAID. More importantly, the ever-popular lunch boxes, which will feature grilled salmon and apricot coulis, are being put together by top chef, Albert Roux. There will also be handsets for delegates to vote on anything that Tim Melville-Ross, IoD director-general, says in his speech.

Local difficulty

SIR Alan Walters, vice-chairman of the American Insurance Group, is finding life as the Referendum Party candidate for the Cities of London and Westminster a little difficult. The 71-year-old economist tells me almost everyone in the constituency lives in apartments, guarded fiercely by burly porters. And the great majority hail from abroad — only he and his wife have a vote on their street.

PATSY BLOOM, the founder of Pet Plan who made £16.2 million when she sold her company to Cornhill Insurance, was extolling the virtues of the Veuve Cliquot Business Woman of the Year award at last week's ceremony. A past winner, Ms Bloom pointed out that Sophie Mirman, former chairman of Sock Shop, is the only black spot in the award's 24-year history. "She went belly-up, but didn't she do it with style" she said.

On his bike

IF Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, doesn't unseat one of his bosses in tomorrow's board election, he is making noises about a bike ride from the Himalayas to the Taj Mahal. Not having ridden a bike until nine months ago, Murphy is rarely out of the saddle.

BRIAN KEELAN, the SBC Warburg director advising CWS, felt "a bit like a drowned rat" at the weekend. Just back from Hong Kong on Thursday, he was rushed to Manchester to deal with developments. "At least you can get a decent Chinese meal in Manchester," he said ruefully.

MORAG PRESTON

TELEVISION CHOICE

Health and wealth

Mrs Cohen's Money
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The forthright Mrs Bernice Cohen turns to the insurance industry and she is not very flattering about it. She accuses the companies of being so busy chasing profits that they have lost sight of what they were set up to do, to offer us protection. She reserves much of her anger for health insurance, claiming that companies frighten us into taking out policies and then do their best to avoid paying out. As evidence, Cohen introduces us to a woman who developed multiple sclerosis, thought she was covered by a serious illness policy but had her claim rejected because her test results were normal.

The Entertainers
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The second part of Irene Cockcroft's look at club entertainers is introduced in the style of an American soap opera with a resumé of previous plotlines. It is a reminder that the strategy is to hook the viewer by following the same acts from episode to episode. Tonight, therefore, we see the debuts of Tara Lee and Lianne Doherty, the young singers featured last week, and discover how the group Groove Club fares after having to find a replacement at short notice. At the same time we are introduced to a new face (new to most of us, but not to the profession) in Sue Sweeney, a veteran singer who is turning to comedy in an attempt to prolong her career.

Bramwell
ITV, 9.00pm

Connolly and Redgrave (ITV, 9.00pm)

Lucy Gannon's Victorian hospital drama returns for a third series, as smoothly-crafted as ever. There is no great depth to the show and some of its storylines, such as the on-off romance between Jemma Redgrave's Dr Eleanor and the devious Irish surgeon (Andrew Connolly), are distinctly banal. But with half a dozen other strands competing for attention, the clichés seem less prominent. Moral dilemmas loom large. Should Dr Eleanor take money for her cash-strapped East End hospital from a brewery, bearing in mind the social evils of drink? The question is neatly complicated by the fact that the wealthy widow who owns the brewery (Maureen Beattie) is being courted by Eleanor's Dad (David Calder).

The Surgery
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Rusholme and Moss Side in Manchester may be deprived areas but they are lucky to have such dedicated GPs as the trio featured in this documentary. These doctors seem to turn nobody away, refuse to be daunted by intractable cases and often go beyond their strictly medical remit to help patients in trouble. Tonight's concluding film shows the surgery dealing with the homeless, the elderly and the chronically sick. The level of concern is impressive, whether it is taking on a family with nowhere to live, no work and a new baby, or trying to ensure that two women crippled by multiple sclerosis are made as comfortable as possible in their own homes. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Late Book: High Fidelity.
Radio 4, 12.30am

Not everyone would have named the comedian Alan Davies as first choice to read Nick Hornby's latest novel, which means Davies was an inspired choice because he makes an excellent job of it. The book is markedly different from Hornby's best-selling *Fever Pitch* but the tone and the close observational qualities are recognisable in both. The lead character in *High Fidelity* is Rob Fleming, at first sight a blokeish sort of bloke who, when Laura, his girlfriend of ten years runs off with the man in the upstairs flat, re-organises his record collection: a more manly therapy than weeping. But, as Fleming discovers following the death of Laura's father, relationships never end, they merely alter.

Monday Play: At the Base of the Pyramid.
Radio 4, 7.45pm

This is not the most cheering piece of work on radio this week but Gary Mitchell's play has grit, pace and the smack of authentic backgrounds and voices, all of which combine to make it immensely listenable. The central character is Sally, an Ulster woman trying to cope with life in a dysfunctional family at the bottom of the social pile. Her husband is a loyalist prisoner, her sister is an out of work airhead and her mother is bedridden. And then there is the matter of the guns her husband has left stashed in the attic. When Sally's thoughts turn to an alternative use for those, the drama cranks up. Maria Connolly is excellent in the lead role, ably supported by Katy Tumelty, Maureen Dowd and Dan Gordon **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00 Kevin Greening **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **1.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat: Interview with John Major **7.00** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Live Music Update **8.40** Andy Kershaw **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Malcolm Laycock **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes over Britain **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mar, includes at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Great Clubs of Europe **8.00** The Monday Match: Coventry City v Arsenal **10.00** Brian Hayes's Election Night **12.00** After Hours with Paul Hemott and Linda McDermott **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST**. News on the hour. **6.30am** Europe Today **7.15** Streets of London **7.30** Omnibus **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Vintage Chart Show **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Question Time **10.05** Business Report **10.15** What's That **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Omnibus **12.30pm** Jazz **1.05** Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** My Generation **4.05** Sport **4.15** On Your Behalf **5.30** Busness Rport **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Seven Days **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** Counterpoint **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Reports form the Silk Road **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack **1.30** A Cry in the Dark **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Seven Days **2.45** Live from the Archive **3.30** On Screen **4.05** Business Report **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Election 97 **1.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Rodrigo (Concerto Serenade for harp and Orchestra) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata: Haydn (Keyboard Sonata No 60 in C, Hob XVI, 50) **8.00** Evening Concert: Poulenc (Les Biches — Rondo); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor, Op 11) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (**FM**) / Robin Banks (**AM**) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 25 in G minor, K183); Dvořák (Violin Concerto in A minor); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 11); Bach (Violin Concerto in E, BWV1042), Bernstein (Overture: Candide)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Myslivecek (Sinfonia in B flat), Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit), Grainger (Molly on the Shore), Dvořák (The Water Goblin)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Includes Wagner (Tannhauser, excerpt); Saint-Saëns (Cello Sonata in C, Op 32); Janacek (Violin Concerto); Haydn (Symphony No 50); Faure (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 117 No2); Vaughan Williams (Pilgrim's Progress, excerpts)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Sergei Rachmaninov. Music from one of the last great performer/composers. Includes Preludes in G, Op32 No 5; Preludes in E flat, Op 23 No6
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's Smith Square, London. Paul Meyer, clarinet, Eric Le Sage, piano. Includes Schumann (Fantasy Pieces, Op 73); Stravinsky (Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo); Debussy (Estampes for Piano), Brahms (Clarinet Sonata in E flat, Op 120 No 2)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Otaka. With Christian Lindberg, trombone, Dong-Suk Kang, violin. Mendelssohn (Overture: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave); Takemitsu (Fantasma-cantos II); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Dvořák (Symphony No 8 in G)
3.45 Everything but the Crazyhouse Russell Davies traces the career of Sidney Bechet. Following a short spell in a Parisian jail, Bechet returned to New York to start a traditional jazz revival (3/6)
4.15 Music Restored. Excerpts from a concert given by Sequentia, last month at the Wigmore Hall, London (r)
5.00 Music Machine: Life in the Slow Lane, with Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune, with Anthony Burton. Includes Nicola Lefanu (Nocturne); Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor); Debussy (La Mer)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Jiri Belohlavek. Live from the Festival Hall in London. With Garrick Ohlsson, piano. Prokofiev (Suite: The Love of Three Oranges); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 1) **8.15** A Future in the Past. The architectural critic Roderick O'Donovan looks at Viennese architecture (r) **8.35** Concert part two. Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor, Tragic)
9.15 Sicilian Voices: The Myth of Sicily. Joe Farrel introduces a series exploring the life, history and literature of Sicily (1/5)
9.35 Siciliana Dances. A selection of music tracing the siciliana of the 16th century to the sicilienne of the 20th. Anon/Respighi, Franco Romero (Siciliana, Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No 3); Jean-Michel Damase (Sicilienne)
10.00 Voices. Ian Burnside introduces the Radio 3 debut of the Canadian baritone Russell Braun. With Roger Vignoles, piano. Faure (L'Horizon Chimerique, Op 18); Massenet (Poeme de Souvenir); Ravel (Don Quichotte a Dulcinee)
10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
11.30 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather remembers some unsung British jazz players
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Peter Sissons puts listener's questions to the Home Secretary Michael Howard. Simultaneous broadcast with BBC1. Call 0345 514614
10.00 News; (FM) With Great Pleasure (FM). Allen Ginsberg introduces a selection of prose and poetry (2/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Miriam Margolyes reads Henry James' *The Portrait of a Lady* (11/20)
11.30 Money Box Live. Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on personal finance. Call 0171 580444
12.00 News; You and Yours (FM)
12.25pm Brain of Britain: First Round — South of England. The general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Judith Shakespeare, by Nan Woodhouse. The story of the Bard's younger daughter, a loner at odds with 17th-century Stratford. With Amanda Root and Michael Pennington (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker reviews *Dance Like a Man*, opening at the Leicester Haymarket. Jatinder Verma has transposed the setting of the play from India to Britain. Plus Stacey Kent and her quintet perform in the studio
4.45 Short Story: Resurrection, by Elizabeth Buchan. The tale of a gardener, a grieving widower, who loves both the soil and his first wife. Read by Christopher Scott
5.00 PM, with Kevin Boucquet and Charlie Lee-Potter **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz. Simon Hoggart is joined by Francis Wheen, Jeremy Hardy, Sandi Toksvig and *Times* columnist Alan Coren (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: At the Base of the Pyramid. See Choice
9.15 Bottoms, Beaks, Bellies and Feet. Caroline Sarll contemplates the human navel (3/4) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: One of Ours. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel abridged by Katie Campbell marking the 50th anniversary of author Willa Cather's death. Nineteen-year old Claude Wheeler struggles to find a meaning in his life. Read by Ian Porter (1/12)
11.00 The Heritage Quiz. Sue MacGregor puts questions to Christopher Cook, Phillipa Gregory, Janet Suzman and Martin Wainwright on subjects ranging from pubs to opera to Shakespeare and the National Gallery (1/6) (r)
11.30 Colvil and Soames. Christopher Lee's story of two intelligence officers investigating the suspicious death of an elderly priest. With Amanda Redman, Dudley Sutton and Christopher Benjamin (4/6) (r)
12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx Weather
12.30am Late Book: High Fidelity. See Choice
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNemara.

Beyond satire — probably beyond rescue

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

What, I wonder, would William Hogarth, "the father of British art", have made of **New Baywatch** (ITV, *Saturday*)? Not a question I ever thought I'd address on a Monday morning (or any other morning come to that) but thanks to last night's enlightening **Hogarth's Progress** (BBC2) I feel up to having a preliminary stab.

According to Andrew Graham-Dixon, Hogarth thought the most beautiful forms were always curvy — which is why, I suppose, he was so good at designing roundabouts. But number one in his top ten of cupulated curves was "the serpentine line" at the well-laced heart of his much-mocked Theory of Beauty. *In an age of bodice and stays*, the gravity-defying serpentine *lines of Gina Lee Nolin and* Yasmin Bleeth would have been *beyond his wildest imaginings.*

We can even hazard a guess at his reaction to the subsequent discovery that such curves still require upholstery, but that these *days it* is worn internally. On the one hand, he would surely have deplored such vain artifice. He painted Sir Thomas Coram without a wig and, after a quick rethink, he did the same with his own self-portrait. Would he be consumed by the same doubts if Pamela Anderson Lee were to sit *for him?* "Sorry Pam, the silicone will have to go. I'll make the pug a bit bigger to make up for it."

As Graham-Dixon made clear, Hogarth was fascinated by "what happens when you strip away the flesh of a human being". In *The Convicted Criminal a dog is seen* chewing at the guts of the dissected *torso. No prizes for* guessing what Fido would be gnawing at had his *master* ever got round to engraving *The Convicted Lifeguard.*

On the other hand, Hogarth was an accomplished businessman and fully aware of the commercial appeal *of a little lubricious eroticism* dressed up as fine art. Is not the equally aptly named CJ. Hooker simply the Moll Hackabout of her day? If television had existed, don't you think *The Harlot's Progress* would have been *worth at least a mini-series? Just* think of the fun Hogarth would have had with the casting.

But if Hogarth would have appreciated the commercial potential of *New Baywatch*, he would have hated the fact that it was American. He liked things to *be British — beef-steak not* beefcake. In fact the only thing that *might have saved it from a* satirical mauling would have been if his arch enemy, the classically-minded William Kent, had taken a dislike to it first.

What David Hasselhoff, star and producer, of the series would make of Hogarth is less certain. Indeed, after Saturday's dire opening episode, what Hasselhoff *makes of anything is unclear* as he appears to have taken leave of his *senses. His contributions* to a paper-thin plot, that had less to it than a hip-high orange swim-suit, were three blink-and-you-missed-them (if you were lucky) scenes that had something to do with vampires. As everyone else was rushing about being search and rescue experts and flirting with the firemen, it was all very confusing. Had Hogarth been painting this nonsense in one of his more high-minded moods, he would have had Congreve, Dryden and Shakespeare once again consigned to a dog-cart: joined, I fear, by *The New Adventures of Superman.*

But before we get caught up in what Hogarth might have made of Lois Lane's serpentine line, let us move on. I had a spot of bother with the weekend's comedy — to wit, being too young to enjoy **Last of the Summer Wine** (BBC1), a series which breaks the promise of its title by returning with monotonous regularity, and too old to enjoy **Sunnyside Farm** (BBC2, Friday). However, if the latter goes on *to become the sort of cult success I* think it might, this is definitely the last time I will be admitting that. I'll even own up to taking a pathetic pride in understanding a joke about the girl from Echobelly.

Now, I realise that with that sentence I've probably lost a lot of you, but that is the sort of series that *Sunnyside Farm* is: isolating. It's foul-mouthed, much of its humour is derived from the slurry pit (a technical term I picked up from *The Archers*) and it enthusiastically *embraces the sort* of habits that force other television critics to find new jobs. If and when you get over the shock, it's funny . . . although I'm going to wait a few weeks before deciding whether "very" should be inserted in that sentence.

In structure, it's *Steptoe and* Brother move to Cold Comfort Farm and take too many drugs. Phil Daniels plays Ray — reluctant agrarian, fervent lecher and one of the strangest comic creations in a long time — while Mark Addy (so good in *The Thin Blue Line*) plays his dim-witted, cross-dressing brother. In an evening of many surprises, the cast also turned out to include those accomplished thespians Michael Kitchen and Beth Goddard. Kitchen turns out to be even better at comedy than his performance in *Reckless* suggested, while Goddard provides a straight but very pretty foil for the quite extraordinary performance put in by Daniels. It's part Harry H. Corbett and it's part something very strange indeed. Full credit to Andy de Emmony, the director — simply for keeping his nerve.

No credit, however, for *Last of the Summer Wine*, a series which lost its nerve years ago and now pursues a relentless policy of cheap laughs and loud caricatures, regardless of the damage done to Roy Clarke's original and brilliant idea. However, as Clarke wrote last night's episode he doesn't appear to mind and nor, after 25 years, does its mysteriously loyal audience. I wonder what Hogarth would have made of Nora Batty?

6.00am Business Breakfast (99599)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70471976)

9.05 Election Call with the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (T) (9170247)

10.00 Style Challenge (35082)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (46247)

11.00 News (T) and weather (4350711)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9893402)

11.35 Snooker: World Championship The first session of Steve Davis's match against Dave McLellan. Plus, the conclusion of Darren Morgan v Gary Wilkinson (3062686)

12.35pm Good Living (9417179)

1.00 News (T) and weather (49773)

1.30 Regional News and weather (50047063)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (31985529)

2.10 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly introduces live coverage as Ronnie O'Sullivan completes his first-round match with Mick Price (4205711)

3.30 Playdays (r) (6722889) **3.50** The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (6442247) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (r) (6882266) **4.10** Casper (T) (8812179) **4.35** 50/50 (T) (7144179) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5895228) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (3031529)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (219711)

6.00 News (T) and weather (792)

6.30 Regional News (T) (104976)

6.55 Election Broadcast: UK Independence Party (172537)

7.00 Auntie's TV Favourites Ben Elton looks back at his career; members of the *Only Fools and Horses* Appreciation Society meet "Boycie" (T) (2334)

7.30 Here and Now Investigation into incidences of domestic violence in the Church (T) (228)

8.00 EastEnders Sanjay is offered a business opportunity which seems too good to be true (T) (1082)

8.30 Panorama: The Leader Interview David Dimbleby talks to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats (T) (7889)

9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (162063)

9.50 Election Broadcast: Labour (T) (673565)

10.00 Intersection (1994) with Richard Gere, Sharon Stone, Lolita Davidovich and Martin Landau. An architect takes stock of his life, resolving to get himself back on track — until a tragedy forces him to take evasive action. Directed by Mark Rydell (T) (25402) FILM

11.30 Film 97 with Barry Norman Barry reviews the Whoopi Goldberg comedy *Eddie*, *Donnie Brasco*, with Al Pacino and Johnny Depp and Wes Craven's *Scream* (T) (31266)

12.00 The Mrs Merton Show in Las Vegas with the actress Bo Derek and singer Engelbert Humperdinck (r) (67700)

12.30am This is a Hijack (1973) with Adam Rourke, Neville Brand and Jay Robinson. A debt-ridden gambler takes the risk of hijacking a jet and holding the occupants to ransom. Directed by Barry Pollack (T) (64990) FILM

2.00-2.05 Weather (3932822)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am O.U.: A Lesson in Progress? (2064689) **6.25** Making Teams Work (2076624) **6.50** English Only in America? (5471781) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8851402) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (4942957) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (4950976) **8.25** Bump (r) (3962247) **8.30** Open a Door (r) (9028529) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (9662889) **9.00** TV6 on the Road (48605) **9.30** Ici Paris (2940353) **9.45** Watch Out (2945808) **10.00** Teletubbies (33624) **10.30** Go for It! (5096860) **10.50** Look and Read (5016624) **11.10** Zig Zag (4356353) **11.30** Ghostwriter Part two (5266) **12.00** Teaching Today (28841) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (88711) **1.00** History File (70474044) **1.25** Landmarks (64895792) **1.45** Storytime (50033860) **2.00** Bump (r) (37975518) **2.05** Open a Door (r) (37974889)

2.10 Alias Smith and Jones (r) (1903082) **3.00** News (T) **3.05** The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (1332063)

3.30 Snooker: World Championship First round coverage (869112)

6.00 The Simpsons Bart takes a crash course in self-defence from Grandpa to stave off the attentions of the ruthless school bully (T) (574957)

6.45 The O Zone (633063)

7.00 British Academy Awards for Craft 1997 Paying homage to those working behind the scenes in film and television. Hosted by Julian Clary (5131)

7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (505565)

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport The British Formula Three championship; a driver's eye view of the Daytona 24-hour race and the Mintex National Rally series (T) (9624)

8.30 The Antiques Show Francine Stock meets the world's most successful antiques dealer (T) (8131)

9.00 Snooker: World Championship Steve Davis v Dave McLellan and John Parrott v Bradley Jones (410112)

Andrew Lincoln as Egg (9.45pm)

9.45 This Life: Unusual Suspect Warren is forced to appear in court. Ferdy's attempts to make amends with Miles backfire. Even happy-go-lucky Egg has his problems (T) (439773)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Labour Party (T) (557266)

10.35 Newsnight (T) (881042)

11.30 Election Broadcast: UK Independence Party (205711)

11.35 Snooker: World Championship John Parrott v Bradley Jones (231773)

12.25am Weather (3030735)

12.30 O.U.: Duccio — the Rucellai Madonna (15803) **1.00** Left and Write (18193) **1.30** Composing (59984) **2.00** Nightschool TV: The Geography Programme (98445) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (64803) **4.30** Royal Institution Discourse (84218) **5.00** RCN Nursing Update (92261)

6.00am GMTV (6358624)

9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3297247)

9.55 Regional News (T) (2319334)

10.00 The Time, the Place (20150)

10.30 This Morning (T) (61779995)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (4023063)

12.30 News (T) and weather (9403976)

12.55 Home and Away (T) (2715518)

1.20 Look Who's Talking (1989) with Kirstie Alley, John Travolta and Olympia Dukakis, and the voice of Bruce Willis. Romantic comedy about the relationship between a single mother and the cab driver who took her to the hospital, as seen through the eyes of her baby son. Directed by Amy Heckerling (47399599) FILM

3.20 News (T) (7338266)

3.30 Tots TV (r) (6874247) **3.40** Caribou Kitchen (9425402) **3.50** Donald Duck Cartoon (9421686) **4.00** The Little Mermaid (6446063) **4.25** The Famous Five (T) (8895402) **4.50** The Big Bang (T) (1311228)

5.10 Sorted (1260247)

5.40 News (T) and weather (469889)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (203686)

6.25 HTV Weather (112995)

6.30 The West Tonight (199044)

6.55 Election Broadcast: Labour (T) (167605)

Anthea Turner explores (7.00pm)

7.00 Wish You Were Here? Includes reports from the Amazon jungle; Bordeaux and Tunisia (T) (74)

7.30 Coronation Street Alma tries to pick up the pieces after her ordeal (T) (624)

8.00 The ITV 500: The People's Election Tonight, voters in the marginal constituency of Bury quiz Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, her Labour counterpart David Blunkett and the Liberal Democrats' Don Foster (6150)

8.30 Police, Camera, Action (2957)

9.00 CHOICE **Bramwell** Return of the Victorian drama series with Jemma Redgrave (T) (8841)

10.00 News (T) and weather (56624)

10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the UK Independence Party (T) (544792)

10.35 Regional News (T) (266402)

10.45 The West Story: Your Starter for Six Hundred The characters involved in the high-pressure catering business as they prepare meals for VIP at some of the region's big summer events (833995)

11.20 The West This Week Election Specials (519093) **12.20am** Hitchcock Presents (5919984) **12.40** Football (3801822) **1.30** Mainly Men (59938) **2.00** Planet Rock Profiles (77377) **2.30** Club Nation (22648) **3.30** God's Gift (2404483) **4.25** Coach (19424803) **4.50** Sound Bites (21122532) **5.00** Coronation Street (71174) **5.30** News

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As HTV West except:

12.55pm A Country Practice (9411995)

1.50 Blue Heelers (2048605)

2.50-3.20 High Road (5686266)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1260247)

6.25-6.55 Central News (211605)

8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)

10.45 Film: Twilight Zone (16298247)

12.40am Sound Bites (7240358)

1.30 Stand and Deliver (35648)

2.30 Real Highway Patrol (3421700)

2.55 Film: The Hostage (7487551)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

1.25 High Road (70486889)

1.55 Murder, She Wrote (2056624)

2.50-3.20 Ruth Meets the Entertainers (5686266)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)

6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (780421)

8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)

10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (985711)

11.15 Love at First Sight (982624)

11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55 A Country Practice (9411995)

1.50 Down by the River (32335060)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1987044)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (203686)

6.25-6.55 Country Ways (211605)

8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)

10.35 Meridian News and Weather (280082)

10.50 The Pier (748082)

11.20 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (995402)

11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55 A Country Practice (9411995)

1.50 Blue Heelers (2048605)

2.50-3.20 Crawshaw Paints (5686266)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1260247)

6.25-6.55 Anglia News (211605)

8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)

10.45 Film: The Anderson Tapes (16298247)

S4C

Starts: 9.30 Film: The Return of the Cisco Kid (7864808) **10.45 Film: The Riders of the Purple Sage** (7755353) **11.50 Gordon Bennett** (6806179) **12.00 Right to Reply** (53537) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (80179) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (77994614) **1.15 Smot y Ci** (73944119) **1.30 Film: The Clouded Yellow** (76513150) **3.15 Tower of Mice** (8763044) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (518) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (353) **4.30 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (537) **5.00 5 Pump** (5811266) **5.10 Ffeil** (5800150) **5.20 Gogs** (8621957) **5.30 Countdown** (889) **6.00 Newyddion** (827315) **6.05 Heno** (214792) **6.35 Bob Yn Ddau** (196957) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (324063) **7.25 Y Jocars** (682860) **8.00 Clwb Garddio** (4792) **8.30 Newyddion** (3529) **9.00 Etholiad 97** (9711) **10.00 Etholiad 97** (832808) **10.15 Sgorio** (509266) **11.00 Snwcer** (1686) **11.30 Party Election Broadcast** (207179) **11.35 NBA Raw** (407957) **12.05am-1.35 Election Midnight Special** (9265174)

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (15537)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (62624)

9.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (33773)

9.30 The Return of the Cisco Kid (1939, b/w) with Warner Baxter as the Mexican Robin Hood. Directed by Herbert I Leeds (7864808) FILM

10.45 The Riders of the Purple Sage (1941, b/w) A western adventure with George Montgomery, directed by James Tinling (9599088) FILM

11.55 Gordon Bennett Comedy short (5672605) **12.00** Right to Reply (r) (T) (53537) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (76605)

1.30 A Little Loving A romantic comedy with Helena Bonham Carter (16135222)

1.55 Highly Dangerous (1950) with Margaret Lockwood. Comedy spy thriller about an entomologist being recruited by the secret service. Directed by Roy Ward Baker (T) (42538995) FILM

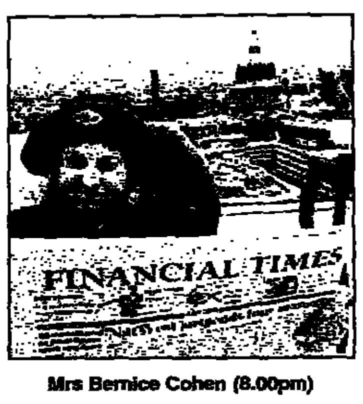
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (518) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (T) (353) **4.30** Countdown (T) (537) **5.00** Montel Williams (T) (5808) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (889)

6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (T) (402)

6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (222)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (973222)

7.50 Thatcher's Children (T) (850632)



Mrs Bernice Cohen (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Mrs Cohen's Money** Mrs Cohen examines the insurance industry with her guest Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers (3/6) (T) (4792)

8.30 CHOICE **The Entertainers** A look at the Beverley Artistes Agency in South Shields (2/4) (T) (3529)

9.00 CHOICE **The Surgery** The last of the documentaries following three GPs from Manchester reveals how the already busy doctors are being forced to become care co-ordinators, providing a wide range of additional services for their patients (T) (9711)

10.00 Dark Skies John and Kim draw an alien Gray into a Majestic trap (T) (9570)

11.00 Election Broadcast: Labour (808537)

11.05 Cheers When Sam discovers that he may have fathered a child, he takes a vow of chastity for a year (627599)

11.35 NBA Raw Basketball action (407957)

12.05am Midnight Special (9265174)

1.35 Triumph of the Nerds: Great Artists Steal The development of the personal computer (3/3) (r) (T) (4564735)

2.35 Pagliacci (1936, b/w). Ruggiero Leoncavallo's opera, with Richard Tauber, directed by Karl Grune (996754) FILM

4.15 Chicken Talk (r) (58267822)

4.30 From Beirut to Bosnia Robert Fisk explores the rise of fundamentalism in Bosnia (3/3) (r) (71938)

5.30-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (64667)

6.00am 5 News Early (7550044)

7.30 Havakazoo (2600402)

8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2228131)

8.30 WideWorld. The link between art and religion in 14th-century Italy (2227402)

9.00 Espresso Consumer magazine (5227353)

10.00 Exclusive (r) (6535402)

10.30 Attractions (r) (2247266)

11.00 Leeza Chat show (9467150) **11.50** Double Espresso (45031995)

12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Ridge and Brooke depart for the honeymoon which will bring them perilously close to Prince Omar (2238518)

12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9112334)

1.00 5 News Update (92135570)

1.05 Sunset Beach Olivia is taken in for questioning concerning her whereabouts on the night of Del's murder (T) (6237044)

2.00 5's Company Live entertainment show (7479529)

3.30 Child of Rage (1992) with Mel Harris, Dwight Schultz and Ashley Peldon. A drama about a couple whose life is made intolerable by their adopted seven-year-old daughter's violent tantrums. Directed by Larry Peerce (4115773) FILM

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14088599)

5.25 Party Election Broadcast by the UK Independence Party (14070570)

5.30 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (1184537)

6.00 Whittle Quiz (T) (1174150)

6.30 Family Affairs (T) Duncan receives a mysterious written warning (1165402)

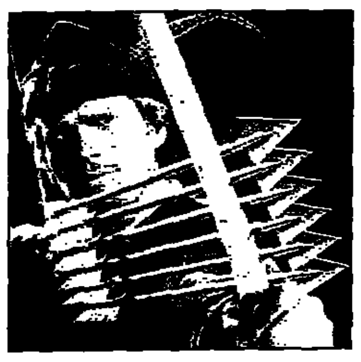
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz magazine (1082686)

7.30 Waterland The wildlife of Woodwalton Fen (7362112)

7.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour Party (5640247)

8.00 Hot Property A couple receive guidance as they look for a Scottish castle to restore (T) (1091334)

8.30 5 News (1070841)



Cary Elwes as Robin (9.00pm)

9.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993) with Cary Elwes, Roger Rees, Amy Yasbek and Tracey Ullman. A spoof of the Robin Hood legend, directed by Mel Brooks (32793605) FILM

10.55 Exclusive Extra (6629228)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5046565)

11.40 We Know Where You Live Irreverent sketch show (2389808)

12.10am Live and Dangerous A through-the-night sports magazine including further coverage of the Winter X Games (33629939)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6304209)

5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5275990)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (378605) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (52570) **10.00** Another World (98781) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (84247) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (14150) **1.00pm** Geraldo (90570) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (52773) **3.00** Jenny Jones (23334) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (49911) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9889) **6.00** Real TV (4044) **6.30** Married — with Children (8624) **7.00** The Simpsons (5938) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4808) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1444518) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (1457082) **10.00** Nash Bridges (52334) **11.00** Selina Scott (99470) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (33605) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (55445) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8141938)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4312605) **7.30** Superboy (3065402) **8.00** September (40599) **10.00** The Outer Limits (1427841) **11.00** Late Show (6942063) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8000716)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Rudy (1993) (83686) **8.00 High Time (1960)** (14607334) **9.45 A Christmas Without Snow (1980)** (40384808) **11.30 Adolf Hitler: My Part in His Downfall (1972)** (57770228) **1.15pm The Long Summer of George Adams (1982)** (21046179) **3.00 Dreamer (1979)** (37421) **5.00 Rudy (1993)** (81334) **7.00 War of the Buttons (1994)** (48204) **9.00 Volcano: Fire on the Mountain (1996)** (24394247) **10.40 Come Die with Me (1994)** (60772150) **12.15am Minnie and Moskowitz (1971)** (175025) **2.15 Pretty Poison (1968)** (678377) **3.45 Garbo Talks (1984)** (74215209)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Connecticut Yankee (9857150) **7.20 The Dragon That Wasn't, or Was He?** (8174063) **8.45 Escapade in Japan (1957)** (76535228) **10.20 Black Widow (1954)** (34982228) **12.00 Camilla (1994)** (64518) **2.00pm To Be or Not to Be (1942)** (41228) **4.00 Escapade in Japan (1957)** (31019191) **5.35 Trapped in Paradise (1994)** (75116841) **7.30 E! Feature** (7516) **8.00 Never Give Up: The Jimmy V Story (1996)** (66537) **10.00 Exit to Eden (1994)** (243889) **11.55 The Zone (1995)** (907995) **1.35am Malone (1987)** (862648) **3.10 The Boy in Blue (1986)** (597667) **4.50 Mysterious Island (1975)** (3415396)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Annie Oakley (1935) (8241686) **8.00 Nothing But Trouble (1991)** (8246131) **10.00 The Sea Wolves (1980)** (64585537) **12.05am The Believers (1987)** (6567272) **2.00 The Four Musketeers (1975)** (5833006) **3.50-5.40 A Day at the Races (1937)** (6534551)

TNT

9.00pm Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958) (69406402) **11.00 Hot Millions (1968)** (95890808) **12.55am The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968)** (43898993) **2.50-5.00 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958)** (66981385)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (48082) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (28452) **8.30** Racing News (48518) **9.00** Golf: Andersen Consulting Championship (22570) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (68402) **10.00** Super League (86266) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (42334) **12.30pm** Football Special: Auto Windscreens Shield (35995) **1.30** Spanish Football (81402) **3.00** Golf Week Special (6711) **3.30** Golf Andersen Consulting Championship (4841) **4.00** World Wide Rugby (4599) **6.00** Sports Centre (3353) **6.30** Football: Tartan Extra (4605) **7.00** Live Monday Night Football (1832841) **10.30** Sports Centre (52711) **11.00** Golf Week Special (58044) **11.30** Football: Tartan Extra (66678) **12.00** Monday Night Football (77342) **2.00am-2.30** Sports Centre (27919)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 US Golf: MCI Heritage Classic (56351228) **3.00pm** Live International Cricket (74759228) **11.00-11.30** Superbikes (22255957)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motorcycling (96334) **9.30** Live Tennis (8874995) **5.00pm** Football (2131) **6.00** Superbikes (70605) **7.00** Speedworld (20686) **9.00** Tennis (85727) **10.00** Football (35204) **11.00-12.30am** Snooker (87537)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (1155334) **7.35** Neighbours (5726711) **8.00** Crossroads (3731228) **8.25** EastEnders (6165150) **9.00** The Bill (9739370) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (6408191) **10.00** Robin's Nest (4807044) **10.30** The Sullivans (5773262) **11.00** Casualty (88953773) **12.05pm** Crossroads (12473686) **12.30** Neighbours (8303727) **1.00** EastEnders (8142247) **1.35** The Dick Emery Show (73104179) **2.05** A Daddy Bit of Dodd (83666599) **2.20** Fairly Secret Army (8041421) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (1889696) **3.30** The Bill (2877131) **4.00** Boon (5648957) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (30749150) **6.05** EastEnders (4553570) **6.40** Sykes (1468402) **7.20** Russ Abbot (46381131) **7.50** Pop Profile (6516063) **8.00** Wowlabgroovy (3220066) **8.30** 79 Park Avenue (85467046) **10.20** The Bill (3080624) **10.55** Minder (7839315) **11.55** Spitting Image (8885268) **12.25am FILM: The Way to the Stars** (3767449) **2.15** Shopping at Night (28071632)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5377063) **6.30** Children's Ward (23178334) **6.45** Alphabet Zoo (79352421) **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (4756711) **7.30** Families (4742518) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (4577131) **9.00** The Professionals (5386711) **10.00** The Krypton Factor (2230150) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (5400599) **11.00** Within These Walls (4751266) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (5424179) **12.30pm** Families (6267315) **1.00** Crown Court (4755082) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6260686) **2.00** A Family at War (2248179) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3926150) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (3912957) **5.00** The Professionals (5571605) **6.00** Families (6830745) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (2235137) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (2858841) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (2874889) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (3901841) **9.30** The Comedians (6287179) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (2857112)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (7420044) **6.25** Quack Attack (7449179) **6.50** Bonkers (1951808) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (7380063) **7.40** Aladdin (4341179) **8.05** Quack Pack (6245024) **8.30** Goof Troop (77044) **9.00** The Gum Bears (3310686) **9.25** Welcome to Pooh Corner (3322421) **9.50** Muppet Babies (8288131) **10.15** Groundling Marsh (6155228) **10.40** Sing Me a Story with Belle (1880080) **11.05** Poddington Peas (1754537) **11.10** Big Garage (9697808) **11.25** Lamb Chop's Play Along (2875808) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (5970711) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (9234860) **12.30** Boy Meets World (5616082) **12.55** Timon and Pumbaa (77480976) **1.05** Mouse Tracks (16279711) **1.30** Aladdin (3344976) **2.10** Goof Troop (46577599) **2.35** Bonkers (5319131) **3.00** Quack Attack (1038860) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (2335678) **3.35** The Little Mermaid (2393650) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4304131) **4.10** Goof Troop (8137605) **4.35** Quack Pack (9140315) **5.00** Aladdin (4503957) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (5822841) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (187773) **6.00** Brand Spanking New Doug (3995) **6.30** Boy Meets World (4247) **7.00** Brotherly Love (8334) **7.30 FILM: Son of the Pink Panther** (85266) **9.00** Bone Chillers (80841) **9.30-10.00** Life's Work (84060)

Mia Farrow, Denholm Elliott in *September* (Sky 2, 8.00pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1477315) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7823711) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6933315) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6945150) **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (8371315) **8.30** Crocadoo (8370686) **9.00** Rimba's Island (4702179) **9.20** The Magic Box (1891781) **9.45** Zoobilee Zoo (9757841) **10.05** Rimba's Island (6017150) **10.25** The Magic Box (7616957) **10.55** Adventures of Dodo (84579247) **11.00** Princess Starla and the Jewel Riders (8923402) **11.30** Pinocchio (8924131) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (8374402) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (35420131) **12.50** Power Rangers Zeo (35440995) **1.10** Big Bad Beetleborgs (20528889) **1.30** Eek! Stravaganza (7246957) **2.00** Life with Louie (4318889) **2.30** Crocadoo (3084537) **3.00** Gadget Boy (4320624) **3.30** Eek! Stravaganza (3089082) **4.00** Life with Louie (3075889) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3064773) **5.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4392841) **5.30** Spiderman (3088353) **6.00** Goosebumps (3085266) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3076518)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (11773) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (75044) **8.00** Batman (81247) **8.30** Art Attack (80518) **9.00** Flash Gordon (64570) **9.30** Bobby's World (22082) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (62421) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (93082) **11.00** Danger Mouse (19179) **11.30** Gravedale High (10808) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (84334) **12.30pm** Halfway [illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from 5.00am to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula [illegible] (66696) **10.30** Babar (59624) **11.00** Magic School Bus (64605) **11.30** Mr Men/King Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skylark (65334) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (40976) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (68860) **1.00** CBBC (63315) **2.00** The Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (2518) **2.30** Kissyfur (6286) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (4353) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (5711) **4.00** Jumanji (1518) **4.30** Rugrats (6042) **5.00** Sister Sister (6570) **5.30** Moesha (4082) **6.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1995) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (2247)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (5858452) **1.00pm** Madison (4750112) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (1458696) **2.00** Hangtime (3295570) **2.30** California Dreams (2890082) **3.00** Byker Grove (3214605) **3.30** Blast (2879599) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2881334) **4.30** Hangtime (2887518) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3219150) **5.30** California Dreams (2861570) **6.00** Byker Grove (2891711) **6.30** Madison (2882063) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9179808)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (9155228) **9.00** Hammer House of Horror (9168792) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9178179) **11.00 FILM: The Dark Myth** (8528650) **1.00am** Starsky and Hutch (4885984) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9943193) **3.00 FILM: The Dark Myth** (4435667) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (5756158) **5.30** The New Twilight Zone (8033071)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (6334) **7.30** Roseanne (1131) **8.00** Roseanne (5082) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (1899) **9.00** Cheers (44841) **9.30** Cybill (88624) **10.00** Frasier (41605) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (50353) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (56686) **11.30** Nightstand (79421) **12.30am** Carnal Knowledge (92735) **1.30** Cybill (96464) **2.00** Entertainment UK (18261) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (37396) **3.00** Frasier (60551) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (28648)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Tenchi Muyo (7270624) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (7259131) **9.00** Sightings (4771537) **10.00** Starman (4774624) **11.00** The Invaders (6481773) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (3352209) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1436025) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3060071) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6604174) **3.00** Dark Shadows (1418261) **3.30-4.00** Dark Shadows (5237261)

HOME AND LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2380452) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (8208173) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (4805686) **10.30** Doing it Up (2685204) **11.00** The Painted House (5655247) **11.30** This Old House (5656976) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (8980696) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4323439) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4763686) **1.30** Home Again (5058650) **2.00** Hometime (3208044) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2870328) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (3227179) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2875773)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (2894808) **4.30** Roadshow (2883792) **5.00** Terra X (3222624) **5.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2974044) **6.00** Untamed Africa (3058470) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3202860) **7.30** Disaster (2884421) **8.00** History's Turning Points (3228808) **8.30** Crocodile Hunters (3207315) **9.00** Lonely Planet (9171266) **10.00** Killer Quake (9174353) **11.00** Wings (4773063) **12.00** Classic Wheels (3779824) **1.00am** Disaster (1651667) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1250537) **5.00** Stories My Country Told Me (7260247) **6.00** The War in the East (3890632) **7.00-8.00** Biography (4775353)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.05pm Blockbusters (2783529) **5.50** Family Fortunes (195792) **6.30** Catchphrase (751042) **7.05** Sale of the Century (129570) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (956711) **8.20** All Clued Up (351191) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (346266) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (231995) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (799792) **11.20** Love at First Sight (251605) **12.00** Sale of the Century (89984) **12.30am** Family Late: Hart to Hart (47209) **1.30 FILM: The Incredible Hulk Returns** (18667) **3.30** My Two Dads (66822) **4.00** The Fall Guy (89919) **5.00-6.00** HSN Direct Shopping (2799498)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (3490678) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (8927063) **9.15** The Gordon Elliott Show (6367402) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (7233179) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (6562131) **11.50** Brookside (2847773) **12.25pm** Why Me? Real Life Case Studies (14825696) **12.55** Tempest (8417044) **1.40** Rolonda (8753995) **2.30** The Agony Experience (9297421) **3.00** Live at Three (26894247) **4.05** The Jerry Springer Show (9681686) **5.05** Lingo (79461315) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9208537) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (3358228) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (2745773) **7.05** Hearts Afire (1680808) **7.35** Brookside (2399063) **8.05** Rolonda (5196353) **9.00 FILM: Scandal in a Small Town** (8243044) **11.00-12.00** The Spicy Sex Files (2685995)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.00** ZEE Calling **8.30** Out and About **9.00 FILM: China Town** **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Rashal **1.00 FILM: Gorai Gartaani** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Shu Chale Che **4.45** Hum Panch **5.15** Teer Kamaan **6.00** The Usha Uthup Show **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **7.30** Fashion Show **8.00** News **8.35** Sailaab **9.05-12.00 FILM: Zaalim**

MTV

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VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

PATTERN 47

Designs on growth at Laura Ashley

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

HOUSING 49

Slowdown on the way, says Roger Bootle

Crest faces sternest test as Alliance & Leicester floats

By Marianne Curphey and Gavin Lumsden

CRESTCO, the company behind the new Stock Exchange paperless electronic share settlement system, claimed last night to be "reasonably confident" that the system would survive today's Alliance & Leicester flotation.

It admitted, however, that the real crunch would come next Monday when trades were signed off under *the five-day settlement rule.* For Crest, the A&L float is the toughest *test of its short life as up to 2.2 million* new shareholders have the option to sell their shares immediately.

Some brokers have warned of a "meltdown" and say the system will struggle to cope with the volume of trades over the next few days.

Hugh Simpson, CrestCo company secretary, said Crest had taken steps to address brokers' concerns. Opening hours had been extended to enable transactions to be processed more swiftly. Staff would be at *their desks from 2am today. He said* last night: "We are reasonably confident that the system will be able to cope."

His comments were less bullish than those of Iain Saville, CrestCo's chief executive, who claimed last week that he was "confident that these measures will assist the market to handle the expected volumes as efficiently as possible".

Today's flotation kicks off a summer of conversions that will test Crest to the limit. A&L's share price could begin trading at 500p, providing an average £1,250 windfall for its 2.5 million members. The Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies and Norwich Union, the life insurer, will create 16 million shareholders. More than 1.2 million A&L members opted to receive their shares in certificate form. Nobody knows when, or if, *they will want to sell, releasing their* unwanted paper into a system run by a computer.

Crest has changed its computer system and pledged to open on Saturdays if necessary to allow extra time for shareholders transactions to be processed. But the system had problems just coping with the busy period at the end of the last financial year when investors "bed-and-breakfasted" their shares. Trading volumes rose 66,000 then, *up from their normal* level of 40,000. After the Halifax flotation in *June they could easily hit 150,000.*

Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers, urged members to hold on to the shares: "If the privatisations were selling off the family silver, the conversions of the building societies mean *someone* has been at granny's jewellery box. It is not often that someone hands you a blue chip stock for nothing."

Joining the big boys, page 50

Cordiant agencies to float after split

By Eric Reguly

CORDIANT, the £800 million advertising group, today will announce a full demerger that will see Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates Worldwide, its two main agencies, floated separately on the stock market.

The break-up, devised by Bob Seelert, Cordiant's chief executive, and SBC Warburg, its adviser, has the backing of British and US institutional shareholders. They are gambling that autonomy will *allow Saatchi and Bates to* thrive. Cordiant's shares have underperformed the market in the past year.

Zenith, the media-buying arm of Cordiant, will be owned equally by the two agencies after the demerger. There are no plans to float Zenith.

Cordiant shares closed *on Friday at 130p, valuing* the group at £577 million. Cordiant and SBC Warburg think a demerger could add several hundred million pounds of value. Advertising agencies are typically valued at 1.2 times their revenue. Based on this calculation, Cordiant, with annual revenues of almost £800 million, is arguably worth £950 million or more.

The demerger has prompted speculation that Maurice and Charles Saatchi, founders of Saatchi & Saatchi, will try to regain control when the shares begin trading.

Co-op 'could face' £1bn bid this week

By Martin Waller, deputy city editor

ANDREW REGAN, the entrepreneur trying to take over large chunks of the Co-operative movement, hopes to have his long-delayed £1.15 billion bid in place as soon as the end of the week, despite two months of rebuffals and a "*dirty tricks*" row that blew up between him and his quarry over the weekend.

He and his Galileo bidding vehicle still face a formidable legal hurdle. They have until 4pm tomorrow to provide information to the High Court of any confidential information on the Co-op obtained from two of its executives who were *suspended last week.* The judge must then rule that a bid can go ahead.

The Regan camp were confident last night that the legal deadline could be met and the necessary judgment be forthcoming, possibly on Friday. This would allow a formal bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to be announced. The deadline was imposed by the court after CWS obtained an injunction against Galileo on Friday, a move that derailed plans to announce a bid that day. "It's full steam ahead," said a spokesman for Mr Regan. "We hope to move forward this week. All our ducks are in a row."

If Mr Regan and Lanica, his main vehicle which set up Galileo to further his ambitions for the CWS, finally succeed in tabling a bid, it will come at a time when relations between him and the Co-op are at their lowest possible ebb. As well as the legal move, *which the CWS insists was not* merely designed to head off his formal offer, a row has blown up over secret meetings between him and the two suspended CWS executives, Allan Green and David Chambers, and their earlier relationship with another of his vehicles.

The High Court on Friday *watched a video of one such* meeting, in a pub car park, produced by the CWS as it asked for an injunction. The Co-op admits using private detectives to track the movements of the two, the head of the CWS's retail operation and his deputy, but says surveillance ended as soon as the injunction was granted.

Graham Melmoth, *the* CWS chief executive, has also written to Lord Hambro, head of Hambros, Lanica's merchant bank, referring to a payment made in 1995 into a Cayman Islands company, Trellis International. At that time Mr Regan's Hobson food business was in negotiations with CWS over a supply agreement.

In those talks, the two suspended executives were acting on behalf of the CWS. A sum of £2 million was paid to Trellis by Hobson as an intermediary once the deal was struck, but Mr Melmoth says his company has no record of any such transaction or any third party involved.

This is disputed by the Regan camp, which says the payment was known of "at the highest levels" at the CWS, and accuses the latter of raising it improperly in an attempt to "publicly hang" Mr Green and Mr Chambers after their contact with Mr Regan was discovered. The Hambros letter, which concludes by asking the bank to *forward "any evidence of* fraud committed against CWS", has further soured the atmosphere between the two parties.

If Mr Regan is granted legal clearance to continue with his offer, he will first call a meeting of all 300 corporate members of the CWS. This is not seen as difficult, as he will *need the support of just ten of* them. But Co-op insiders say the necessary 75 per cent majority at such a meeting to deal with Galileo will be almost impossible to secure.

Mr Regan has found another ally, Allied Irish Banks, which is keen to take over the highly regarded Co-op Bank in any break-up of the CWS. But a report that J Sainsbury wanted to buy some of the larger food stores has been denied.

Full load: John Appleby managing director of wheeled shovel loaders, top, and Neil Bedford, centre, managing director of backhoe loaders, celebrate the awards with Sir Anthony Bamford

JCB scoops up its 13th award

THE JCB Group, the Staffordshire plant maker, has managed another double in this year's Queen's Export Awards, winning honours for both its wheeled loader and backhoe loader divisions. This brings the number of wins for JCB since 1969 to thirteen. Exports of wheeled loaders have more than trebled over the past three years, while those for backhoe loaders rose 64 per cent.

Among the big names winning this year are British Steel, IBM United Kingdom, US owned but ranked fifth among top UK exporters, GEC and Toyota, one of the most successful of the new Japanese inward investors.

At the other end of the corporate scale, fans of 1960s retro might approve the award to Mathmos, a London firm producing 400,000 lava lamps a year at up to £65 each.

Awards, pages 42-45

Business ready for Labour in power

By Philip Bassett
Industrial editor

BUSINESS overwhelmingly believes that Labour will form the next government, and captains of industry are not worried about the prospect of Labour in power after May 1.

The findings come from separate surveys by the Institute of Management and Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company.

Business leaders judge that Labour will win next week's general election, according to evidence from the Institute of Management today. Its latest survey shows that 81 per cent of managers believe that Labour is most likely to win the election. Only 15 per cent expect the Conservatives to win.

Although the figures suggest that business believes that the election is a foregone conclusion, the findings are significant because they are in stark contrast to what business wants, measured by its own *voting intentions.*

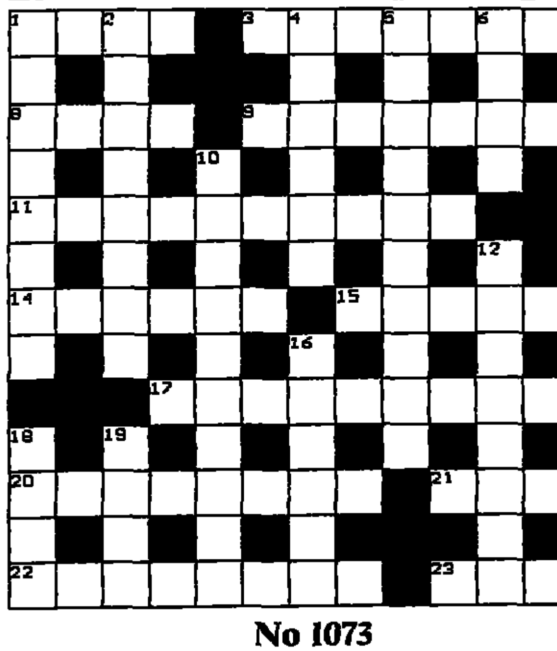
The institute's findings are the first significant figures to support the general business view that while business does not much want Labour to win, it expects it to do so. Roger Young, IM director-general, says today: "The findings show managers' bets seem to be riding on Tony Blair."

But company directors are expected to be called on this week to support the Conservatives. Business leaders are likely to hear calls for Tory support at the annual conference on Wednesday of the Institute of Directors. Lord Young, IoD president, is a former Conservative Cabinet minister.

But business is likely to send mixed signals about the economy this week too. In the final significant business figures before the election, large-scale industrial surveys by the Confed*eration of British Industry and* the British Chambers of Commerce are expected to give further warnings that the strength of sterling is hitting the competitiveness of UK companies.

Confidence among company directors over the economic outlook is at its lowest level since September 1995, a poll from SBC Warburg claims. It says that six months ago 48 per cent of directors were confident of an improvement compared with just 14 per cent now.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1073

ACROSS
1 Simple (4)
3 Adoption (of cause) (8)
8 *Top of house* (4)
9 One from Vienna (8)
11 With off-beat rhythm (10)
14 Every year (6)
15 Trickery (6)
17 Weightily declare (10)
20 Toeing party line (8)
21 Powder for bathroom (4)
22 Rashness (8)
23 Raise (tax, troops) (4)

DOWN
1 Pre-Roman Italian (8)
2 Fainting (8)
4 Georges —, *pointillist* (6)
5 Not sloping; honest (2,3,5)
6 Agitate; prison (*slang*) (4)
7 Prov. keen-eyed big cat (4)
10 50-year-old radio programme (6,4)
12 Isolate, divide (8)
13 Elastic (8)
16 Expel from country (6)
18 Gentle; yielding (4)
19 Molecule component (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1072

ACROSS: 7 Hoist 8 Puerile 9 Drifter 10 Rival 11 Yawn 12 Almighty 15 Straight 16 Fail 19 Covet 21 Adamant 22 Elitist 23 Ochre

DOWN: 1 Shoddy 2 Civil War 3 State 4 Recruit 5 Kiev 6 Wesley 8 Purple Heart 13 Hiawatha 14 Pigtail 15 Sacred 17 Letter 18 Razor 20 Void

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MGAM in the bidding for Axiom

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell yesterday confirmed Austra*lian newspaper reports that* Morgan Grenfell Asset Management is among the bidders for Axiom, the manager of some A$18 billion of funds for the New South Wales government. If it wins, MGAM would use Axiom to bid for the management of other government funds in Australia. MGAM faces stiff competition. Australian analysts give National Australia Bank, one of the four known bidders, the best chance of winning Axiom.

GDP forecast

Economic growth will accelerate throughout the rest of the year but inflation poses little immediate threat, a report concludes today. The Chartered Institute of Marketing predicts that GDP will rise 1.3 per cent in the second quarter and continue to grow in the second half. GDP figures for the first quarter are *due out on Friday with quarter*ly rate forecast to show growth of 0.8 per cent, taking the annual rate from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

BSkyB considers pay-per-view soccer

By Jason Nissé

BSKYB is considering pay-per-view football matches in the UK in June when England appears in a four-team tournament in France, playing against the host nation, Italy and Brazil.

The UK rights to live coverage of the tournament, a warm-up for next year's World Cup, have been sold to BSkyB by the *French football association with* edited highlights expected to be shown on ITV.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is looking at showing the England games on a pay-per-view basis, charging viewers between £5 and £10.

A spokesman said no final discison had been made on the coverage. A final decision is expected in early May.

If BSkyB goes ahead it will be the first football games shown on a pay-per-view basis and will *test demand for converting cov*erage of the Premiership to pay-per-view — expected to occur in two years.

BSkyB has enjoyed great *success with pay-per-view box*ing, winning over 600,000 viewers from the Bruno-Tyson fight last year, which was shown in the UK at 4am on a Sunday. Last week it announced it would be showing Prince Naseem's fight at the Nynex arena in May on a pay-per-view basis.

The Football Association, *which is in charge of England* games at home, is not happy about pay-per-view coverage of the tournament in France, but said it could exert no more than moral pressure to have the games shown on a free view to Sky Sports subscribers.

"We are not terribly in favour of pay-per-view at this stage," said Phil Carling, the FA's commercial director. "It does not provide the right level of delivery for our sports and this would be of concern to our sponsors."

Home games played by *England and coverage of the* World Cup are covered by a prohibition that does not allow them to be shown through pay-per-view.

Six million in the $1m club

By Gavin Lumsden

THE rich are indeed getting richer. The fortunes of the world's known super-wealthy have more than doubled to $16,600 billion in the past ten years and dollar millionaires now number more than six million. And that is not counting the £250 billion-plus reckoned to be held by criminals.

Rich *Europeans* have pushed American millionaires into second place over the past decade. Gemini Consulting and Merrill Lynch, which produced the research, forecast that assets held by the rich will swell to $24,000 billion in the next three years from continuing deregulation and rapid growth in emerging markets.

The world's rich are increasingly to be found in Asia and Latin America. In these areas, wealth has grown at 15 per cent pa since 1986.

Asian *millionaires now* own an estimated $3,500 billion in private fortunes, set to top $6,000 billion by the year 2000. Such unprecedented growth will push the region into *second place behind* Europe and ahead of North America for the first time.

Europe's elite controlled $5,000 billion in 1996 but will possess more than $7,000 billion by the turn of the century, the report foecasts. In spite of its entrepreneurial reputation and the presence of billionaires such as Bill *Gates, the chief Microsoft,* assets held by the rich in the US will rise a relatively modest $1,400 billion to $5,800 billion.

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Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Amicable	48.00
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	**25.02**

Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers.	
Commercial Union	75.00
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	**53.30**

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